

# THE AMERICAN LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

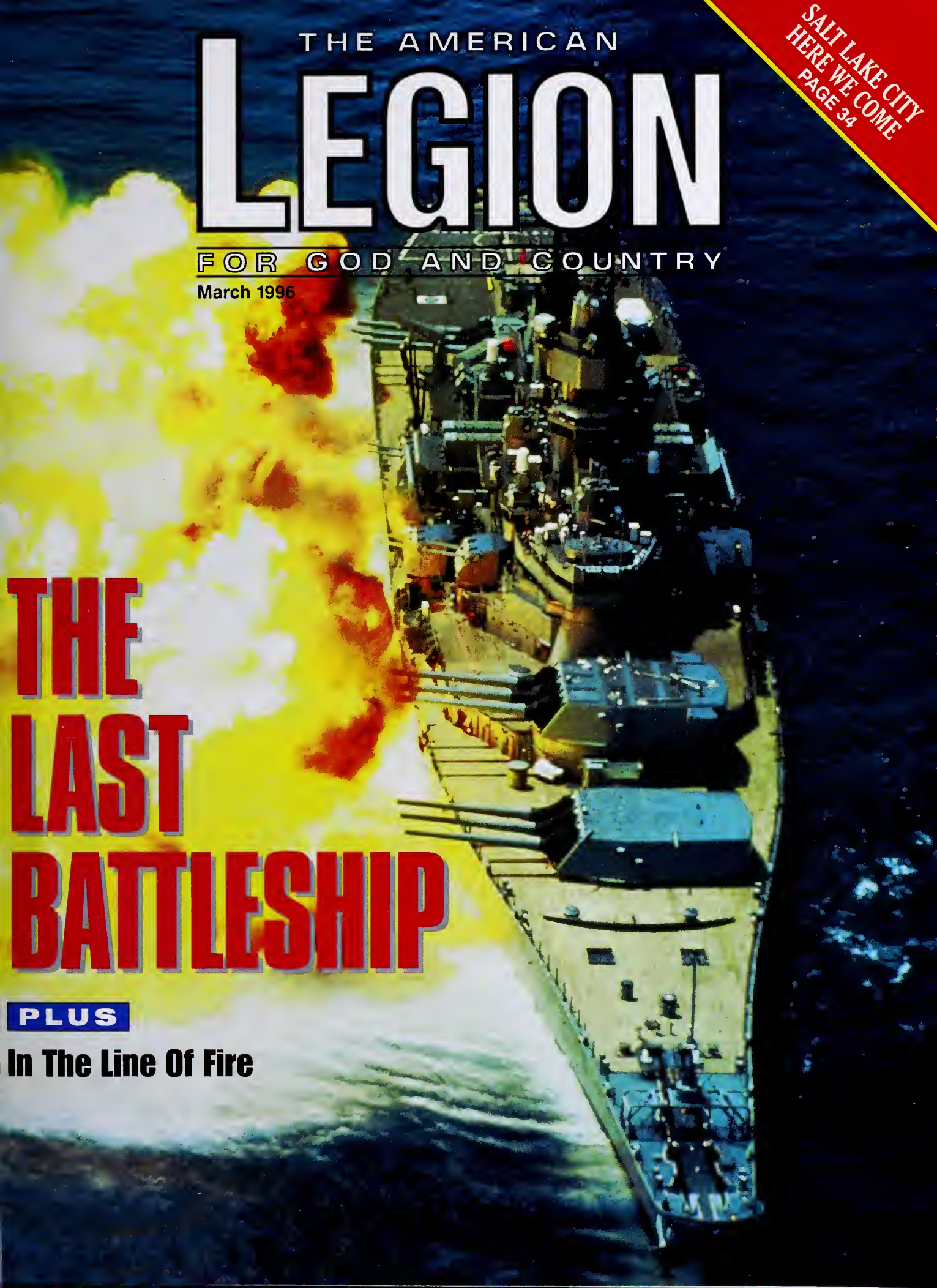
March 1996

SALT LAKE CITY  
HERE WE COME  
PAGE 34

## THE LAST BATTLESHIP

**PLUS**

**In The Line Of Fire**







1997 Buick LeSabre



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today—watch your diet, get your exercise,  
and ask your doctor about ZOCOR ■

It's not just the eggs at breakfast or the  
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Cholesterol is also produced  
naturally in the liver. So while  
diet and exercise are very important, they  
are not always a full solution ■



 More lives are lost from  
heart disease each year than  
from all forms of cancer  
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sterol and heart disease. If you have high  
cholesterol, you can help ensure your

Enter ZOCOR. Used by more than two  
million people worldwide, ZOCOR works  
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LDL (bad) cholesterol. A five-year study  
among patients with high cholesterol and  
heart disease demonstrated dramatic  
results for ZOCOR: fewer heart attacks and  
42% fewer deaths from heart disease ■

ZOCOR is a prescription medication, so  
only your doctor or health care professional



ZOCOR is indicated as an addition to diet for patients with high cholesterol  
when diet and other measures are inadequate.

# that zocor helps save lives risk of heart attacks.

## CHOLESTEROL AND HEART DISEASE, PROVEN TO HELP SAVE LIVES.

can determine whether you should take it. Of course, not everyone gets the same results. Your doctor will want to perform routine blood tests to check your liver enzymes before and during your treatment. In clinical studies, 1% of patients experienced liver dysfunction. Some people should not take ZOCOR: people with liver disease or possible liver problems, women who are pregnant, likely to become pregnant or who are breast-feeding, or people who are allergic to any of its ingredients ■

When you talk to your doctor about ZOCOR, be sure to mention any medications you are taking, to avoid possible serious drug interactions. Tell your doctor if you experience any unexplained muscle pain or weakness while taking ZOCOR, since this could be a sign of

serious side effects. Finally, discuss any other side effects, or any other issues, with your doctor ■

Here's a list of questions to help your discussion with your doctor.

- Does my high cholesterol put me at risk?
- Should I consider adding medication to my diet and exercise?
- Could ZOCOR reduce my chances of having a heart attack?
- What are the side effects of ZOCOR?
- What type of results can I expect from ZOCOR?

To receive a free copy of "Surviving High Cholesterol" call  
**1 800 266-9559.**

Please read the next page for a summary of prescribing information and discuss it with your doctor.



It's your future. BE THERE.



# ZOCOR<sup>®</sup>

(SIMVASTATIN)

**PLEASE READ THIS SUMMARY CAREFULLY, AND THEN ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT ZOCOR. NO ADVERTISEMENT CAN PROVIDE ALL THE INFORMATION NEEDED TO PRESCRIBE A DRUG. THIS ADVERTISEMENT DOES NOT TAKE THE PLACE OF CAREFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUR DOCTOR. ONLY YOUR DOCTOR HAS THE TRAINING TO WEIGH THE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF A PRESCRIPTION DRUG FOR YOU.**

## USES OF ZOCOR

ZOCOR is a prescription drug that is indicated as an addition to diet for many patients with high cholesterol when diet and exercise are inadequate. For patients with coronary heart disease (CHO) and high cholesterol, ZOCOR is indicated as an addition to diet to reduce the risk of death by reducing coronary death; to reduce the risk of heart attack; and to reduce the risk for undergoing myocardial revascularization procedures (coronary artery bypass grafting and percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty).

## WHEN ZOCOR SHOULD NOT BE USED

Some people should not take ZOCOR. Discuss this with your doctor.

ZOCOR should not be used by patients who are allergic to any of its ingredients. In addition to the active ingredient simvastatin, each tablet contains the following inactive ingredients: cellulose, lactose, magnesium stearate, iron oxides, talc, titanium dioxide, and starch. Butylated hydroxyanisole is added as a preservative.

**Patients with liver problems:** ZOCOR should not be used by patients with active liver disease or repeated blood test results indicating possible liver problems. (See WARNINGS.)

**Women who are or may become pregnant:** Pregnant women should not take ZOCOR because it may harm the fetus. **Women of childbearing age should not take ZOCOR unless it is highly unlikely that they will become pregnant.** If a woman does become pregnant while on ZOCOR, she should stop taking the drug and talk to her doctor at once.

**Women who are breast-feeding** should not take ZOCOR.

## WARNINGS

**Liver:** About 1% of patients who took ZOCOR in clinical trials developed elevated levels of some liver enzymes. Patients who had these increases usually had no symptoms. Elevated liver enzymes usually returned to normal levels when therapy with ZOCOR was stopped.

**Your doctor should perform routine blood tests to check these enzymes before and during treatment with ZOCOR. The tests should occur at 6 weeks and 12 weeks after you begin taking ZOCOR, and about every 6 months thereafter.** If your enzyme levels increase, your doctor should order more frequent tests. If your liver enzyme levels remain unusually high, your doctor should discontinue your medication.

Tell your doctor about any liver disease you may have had in the past and about how much alcohol you consume. ZOCOR should be used with caution in patients who consume large amounts of alcohol.

**Muscle:** Tell your doctor right away if you experience any muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness at any time during treatment with ZOCOR, particularly if you have a fever or if you are generally not feeling well, so your doctor can decide if ZOCOR should be stopped. Some patients may have muscle pain or weakness while taking ZOCOR. Rarely, this can include muscle breakdown resulting in kidney damage. The risk of muscle breakdown is greater in patients taking certain other drugs along with ZOCOR, such as the lipid-lowering drug Lipid\* (Gentibrozil), a fibrinolytic, lipid-lowering doses of nicotinic acid (niacin), the antibiotic erythromycin, certain intravenous/injectable antitumor drugs, or drugs that suppress the immune system (called immunosuppressive drugs, such as Sandimmune\*\* [Cyclosporine]). Patients using ZOCOR along with any of these drugs should be carefully monitored by their physician. The risk of muscle breakdown is greater in patients with kidney problems or diabetes.

If you have conditions that can increase your risk of muscle breakdown, which in turn can cause kidney damage, your doctor should temporarily withhold or stop ZOCOR. Such conditions include severe infection, low blood pressure, major surgery, trauma, severe metabolic, endocrine and electrolyte disorders, and uncontrolled seizures. Discuss this with your doctor, who can explain these conditions to you.

Because there are risks in combining therapy with ZOCOR with lipid-lowering doses of nicotinic acid (niacin) or with drugs that suppress the immune system, your doctor should carefully weigh the potential benefits and risks. He or she should also carefully monitor patients for any muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness, particularly during the initial months of therapy and if the dose of either drug is increased. Your doctor may also monitor the level of certain muscle enzymes in your body, but there is no assurance that such monitoring will prevent the occurrence of severe muscle disease.

## PRECAUTIONS

Before starting treatment with ZOCOR, try to lower your cholesterol by other methods such as diet, exercise, and weight loss. Ask your doctor about how best to do this. Any other medical problems that can cause high cholesterol should also be treated.

ZOCOR is less effective in patients with the rare disorder known as homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia.

**Drug Interactions:** Because of possible serious drug interactions, it is important to tell your doctor what other drugs you are taking, including those obtained without a prescription.

ZOCOR can interact with Lipid, niacin, erythromycin, certain intravenous/injectable antitumor drugs,

and drugs that suppress the immune system (called immunosuppressive drugs, such as Sandimmune). (See WARNINGS, Muscle.)

Some patients taking lipid-lowering agents similar to ZOCOR<sup>®</sup> (Simvastatin) and coumarin anticoagulants (a type of blood thinner) have experienced bleeding and/or increased blood clotting time. Patients taking these medicines should have their blood tested before starting therapy with ZOCOR and should continue to be monitored.

**Endocrine (Hormone) Function:** ZOCOR and other drugs in this class may affect the production of certain hormones. Caution should be exercised if a drug used to lower cholesterol levels is administered to patients also receiving other drugs (e.g., ketoconazole, spironolactone, cimetidine) that may decrease the levels of activity of hormones. If you are taking any such drugs, tell your doctor.

**Central Nervous System Toxicity; Cancer, Mutations, Impairment of Fertility:** Like most prescription drugs, ZOCOR was required to be tested on animals before it was marketed for human use. Often these tests were designed to achieve higher drug concentrations than humans achieve at recommended dosing. In some tests, the animals had damage to the nerves in the central nervous system. In studies of mice with high doses of ZOCOR, the likelihood of certain types of cancerous tumors increased. No evidence of mutations or of damage to genetic material has been seen. In one study with ZOCOR, there was decreased fertility in male rats.

**Pregnancy:** Pregnant women should not take ZOCOR because it may harm the fetus.

Safety in pregnancy has not been established. There have been no reports of birth defects in the children of patients taking ZOCOR. However, in studies with lipid-lowering agents similar to ZOCOR, there have been rare reports of birth defects of the skeleton and digestive system. Therefore, women of childbearing age should not take ZOCOR unless it is highly unlikely they will become pregnant. If a woman does become pregnant while taking ZOCOR, she should stop taking the drug and talk to her doctor at once. The active ingredient of ZOCOR did not cause birth defects in rats at 6 times the human dose or in rabbits at 4 times the human dose.

**Nursing Mothers:** Drugs taken by nursing mothers may be present in their breast milk. Because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants, a woman taking ZOCOR should not breast-feed. (See WHEN ZOCOR SHOULD NOT BE USED.)

**Pediatric Use:** ZOCOR is not recommended for children or patients under 20 years of age.

## SIDE EFFECTS

Most patients tolerate treatment with ZOCOR well; however, like all prescription drugs, ZOCOR can cause side effects, and some of them can be serious. Side effects that do occur are usually mild and short-lived. Only your doctor can weigh the risks versus the benefits of any prescription drug. In clinical studies with ZOCOR, less than 1.5% of patients dropped out of the studies because of side effects. In a large, long-term study, patients taking ZOCOR experienced similar side effects to those patients taking placebo (sugar pills). Some of the side effects that have been reported with ZOCOR or related drugs are listed below. This list is not complete. Be sure to ask your doctor about side effects before taking ZOCOR and to discuss any side effects that occur.

**Digestive System:** Constipation, diarrhea, upset stomach, gas, heartburn, stomach pain/cramps, anorexia, loss of appetite, nausea, inflammation of the pancreas, inflammation of the mouth, hepatitis, jaundice, fatty changes in the liver, and, rarely, severe liver damage and failure, cirrhosis, and liver cancer.

**Muscle, Skeletal:** Muscle cramps, aches, pain, and weakness; leg pain; shoulder pain; joint pain; muscle breakdown.

**Nervous System:** Dizziness, headache, insomnia, tingling, memory loss, damage to nerves causing weakness and/or loss of sensation and/or abnormal sensations, anxiety, depression, tremor, loss of balance, psychic disturbances.

**Skin:** Rash, itching, hair loss, dryness, nodules, discoloration.

**Eye/Senses:** Blurred vision, altered taste sensation, eye irritation, progression of cataracts, eye muscle weakness.

**Hypersensitivity (Allergic) Reactions:** On rare occasions, a wide variety of symptoms have been reported to occur either alone or together in groups (referred to as a syndrome) that appeared to be based on allergic-type reactions, which may rarely be fatal. These have included one or more of the following: a severe generalized reaction that may include shortness of breath, wheezing, digestive symptoms, and low blood pressure and even shock; an allergic reaction with swelling of the face, lips, tongue and/or throat with difficulty swallowing or breathing; symptoms mimicking lupus (a disorder in which a person's immune system may attack parts of his or her own body); severe muscle and blood vessel inflammation; bruises; various disorders of blood cells (that could result in anemia, infection, or blood clotting problems) or abnormal blood tests; inflamed or painful joints; hives; fatigue and weakness; sensitivity to sunlight; fever, chills; flushing; difficulty breathing; and severe skin disorders that vary from rash to a serious burn-like shedding of skin all over the body, including mucous membranes such as the lining of the mouth.

**Other:** Chest pain, edema (swelling), loss of sexual desire, breast enlargement, impotence.

**Laboratory Tests:** Liver function test abnormalities including elevated alkaline phosphatase and bilirubin; rare reports of thyroid function abnormalities.

**NOTE:** This summary provides important information about ZOCOR. If you would like more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist to let you read the professional labeling and then discuss it with them.



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\*Lipid is a registered trademark of Warner-Lambert Company.

\*\*Sandimmune is a registered trademark of Sandoz AG.

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# THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Magazine for a Strong America

Vol. 140, No. 3

March 1996

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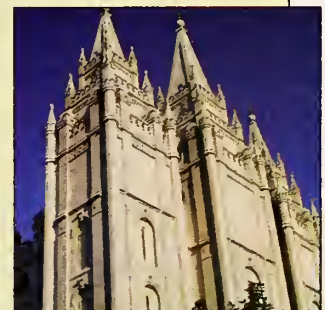
*Battleships such as the USS Iowa on this month's cover may find their future as museums, if the Navy has its way. See Page 24. Photo by Hilton/U.S. Navy.*



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THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.9 million members. These military-service veterans, working through nearly 15,000 community-level Posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.



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- Tom Lawrence, Somerville, NJ

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## Our Flag

I was somewhat offended by the remarks of Sen. John Chaffee of Rhode Island, who attempted to portray himself as guardian of our Constitution by stating that flag desecration was "a trivial matter" that did not merit wasting the time of the Senate in a debate regarding a constitutional amendment.

Who is this self-righteous senator who would object to the concerns of millions of Americans?

I certainly hope he will answer to the electorate of Rhode Island as to the "trivial matter" of desecrating the flag.

*John P. Leszczynski  
Henrietta, N.Y.*

## Seawolf at Issue

The paradoxical "Yes" stance taken by Rep. Sam Gejdenson ("Does U.S. Require A Third Seawolf Submarine?" Big Issues, January) should come under close scrutiny in light of his liberal views and positions regarding previous administration defense budgets and military spending. Gejdenson omitted the fact that the Seawolf construction site is the Electric Boat Shipyard in his own congressional district.

This article could be misconstrued to make him a supporter of the military, and in particular, of defense spending. Gejdenson has been handed a double-edged sword. He may appear to veterans as supportive of their defense posture, but it is most advantageous to Gejdenson. He gains voter support from his constituents because Connecticut's employment has, and still does, rely on the defense industry. Seawolf and security are secondary.

Gejdenson's stated position in this article is a deft political maneuver that should be scrutinized by readers, but more importantly, by the voters in Gejdenson's 2nd Congressional District.

Without a doubt, Sen. John McCain's opinion has more logic and no indication of political motivation.

*William Pidlipchak  
Seymour, Conn.*

## Hire Learning

I wish someone would please explain to me why the U.S. Army says that 9 out of 10 employers look for

Army experience. Then the *ABC Evening News* of July 4, 1995, stated that veterans in their early 20s were twice as likely to be unemployed as nonveterans.

I was a Vietnam veteran who did his time honorably in the Army. When Desert Storm rolled around, I was in the National Guard, and I had one question: Would they treat me the same way after this war as they did the last one? Providing you have not been living under a rock, they did exactly the same thing. As a matter of fact, all you have to do is read "With Preferences Like These...."

*Freddy Ramm  
Blairstown, N.J.*

I retired at 52, but for family reasons, went back to work. Being a 10-point veteran, I figured I could land a low-tier job in my field, or any other that I qualified for in government employment.

That was the wrong assumption. Because of nepotism, paternalism, fraternalism and whatever "isms," I was never hired.

It's a shame that more accountability is not forced upon the hiring person to hire honestly and according to the intent of the law.

*Ted Madison  
Cleveland, Ohio*

As an employee of the Kansas City VA, your article about veterans being discriminated against in the federal government is right on the money.

## WE WANT YOUR OPINIONS

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE welcomes letters to the editor concerning articles that appear in the publication. Be sure to include your address and a daytime phone number for verification. Short letters are more likely to be published, and all letters are subject to editing. Send your opinions to:

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What normal-thinking veteran wouldn't think he'd get a fair shake at a VA hospital? Veterans helping veterans...it sounds right.

However, nonveteran females pretty much have the run of things here. Ain't that a hoot? With vertical nonexempted training opportunities and no promotions, this is a tough place for veterans to get a job. Kick me, I'm a veteran.

*Stephen Born  
Independence, Mo.*

I was infuriated after reading "With Preferences Like These..." (January). As a World War II vet, I was able to use veterans preference without any difficulty. It seems to be watered down since Vietnam and later wars came along.

We should demand the return of the Civil Service Commission, and the feet of the next president should be held to the fire on veterans preference.

*Robert L. Jones  
Penn Hills, Pa.*

## Goin' Ballistic

Jeane Kirkpatrick's "Missile Shield A Must" (January) is seriously missing one strong point. The Department of Defense and the Joint Chiefs have not put the so-called missile shield on their budget requests. In other words, they don't want it!

*Charles L. Highbarger Sr.  
Hagerstown, Md.*

Jeane Kirkpatrick states that the United States is defenseless against nuclear attack. This is totally false. The United States has had a defense against nuclear attack since the dawn of the nuclear age 50 years ago.

This defense has not only been 100-percent effective at preventing nuclear war, it has also been 100-percent effective at preventing global conventional war. This defense is called deterrence.

We don't need to spend billions building a missile shield. We already have a missile shield that is working just fine as long as we don't start dismantling it in the name of "peace" or "arms control" or "balancing the budget."

*Michael A. Zachary  
Phoenix, Ariz.  
Please turn to page 12*



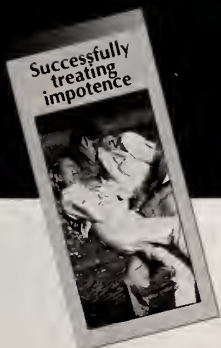
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## Doom With A View

Mr. Stuller presented a masterpiece of misinformation and untrue innuendo in his article, "Apocalypse: Not Yet" (January).

He lambastes ecologists and almost accuses anybody who dares disagree of being a tree spiker. The only government I can think of that acted on premises like Mr. Stuller's is the USSR. The terrible legacy of that is seen in the sooty, chemically and radiologically contaminated areas of Eastern Europe.

To sum up, I would say Mr. Stuller needs to get his head out of the sand before Mother Nature comes hunting ostrich feathers.

*Gregory M. Fedorchuk  
Junction City, Kan.*

I have always enjoyed reading your magazine, but in your article, "Apocalypse: Not Yet," there was not one mention of God. How sad.

All I can say is...it's later than you think.

*V. Bates  
Lexington, Ky.*

## Buried With Honor

When I read "From Potter's Field To A Place Of Honor" (January), it only tells a fraction of the whole picture of disrespect for the veterans of this nation. I hope the other seven or more veterans are identified and receive the same honors and military services that were provided for Paul Oziemkiewicz.

Let us not make the other veterans the MIAs of Chicago's South Side.

*Edward E. Gosciminski  
Elysburg, Pa.*

Never have I read such a touching true story. Only in America could this take place.

I salute every Legionnaire from the Illinois Department who arranged and participated in this ceremony. It makes me doubly proud to be a D-Day veteran and a member of The American Legion.

May your magazine continue to print such interesting material for a long time.

*Sam Nederlander  
Portage, Pa.*

I believe the story of Paul Oziemkiewicz unequivocally exemplifies the mission of The American Legion: to honor veterans. Oziemkiewicz was not a war hero, and he seemed to have lived a very secluded and forlorn life in his latter years.

However, the members of Post 388 in South Shore, Ill., made sure the veteran received an immortal "thank you" and "goodbye."

I respect and applaud the efforts of Post 388 and all the participants in revising the final chapter of Paul Oziemkiewicz's life.

It is an appropriate ending to any distinguished veteran's life.

*Andrew T. Collier  
Washington, D.C.*

Page 35 of your January issue states that a firing squad from Illinois Lansing Post 697 fired a 21-gun salute in honor of a deserving veteran. I have been trying for years to explain that the firing of volleys during taps is just that, part of the taps ceremony.

A salute is fired one shot at a time, never in volleys. Salutes are fired to honor former dignitaries and 21-gun salutes are reserved for heads of state.

Your article tends to shoot holes in my position. I intend no disrespect to the taps ceremony, but the public should know the difference.

*Gerald J. Damrath  
Hornell, N.Y.*

## Class Struggle

Like most conservative thinkers, William Bennett ("Broken Compass," January) would rather believe that most social outcasts and deprived are themselves to blame, so should not be rescued. This makes them no better than the liberal thinkers who prefer to just drop relief packages rather than attempt a rescue.

While it might make both sides of the social/economic issue feel better about themselves, the victims of this sinking ship are losing hope of ever being rescued.

*Ray Rapier  
Hoopeston, Ill.*

## Sleepless

The day after New Year, I was awakened by a barking dog and could

not go back to sleep, so I began to read THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE. I read "They're After Our Children," "Broken Compass" and "Apocalypse: Not Yet," and consider all three articles excellent.

I plan to tell my children, grandchildren and friends what a great magazine yours is, and encourage them to subscribe. Let's hear more from Gordon Wheeler, William Bennett and Jay Stuller.

*Jo-Anne M. Montz  
LaPlace, La.*

*Ed. note: Ms. Montz is correct. You don't have to be a member to get The American Legion Magazine. Subscriptions are available for \$15 a year.*

## VA Plan Flawed

I take issue with the article, "Life-line To VA," (January) and the Legion plan to "save" VA. Currently the government is required to provide education, health care and welfare to illegal immigrants.

Our veterans fought for their country, placed themselves in harm's way to serve the fullest ideals of this country.

The article describes the Legion's plan to "save" VA, but at what cost? Surely veterans deserve, were promised and must receive care from a system established for them without a drain on their personal health-care coverage. This is unacceptable.

A veteran deserves treatment without categorization of income, community status or other methods of means testing.

I think this plan proposed by the Legion needs further consideration and revision before presentation.

*Bill Thomson  
Manchester, N.H.*

## Correction

The Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) denies that it is considering giving troops an anti-Alzheimer's drug to improve memory and concentration (On Duty, November 1995).

Though AFOSR funds various research projects, it has no jurisdiction regarding decisions for civilian or military research applicants. □



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



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# AMERICA SHOULD HONOR SERVICE AND VALOR

**A**MERICA'S peacekeeping forces in Bosnia should return home to a hero's welcome, whether their mission succeeds or fails. We do not support the use of U.S. forces to intervene in this civil war, but as long as they're there, we will do whatever we can to help them.

The American Legion has re-established its Family Support Network (FSN), which helped hundreds of troops during the Gulf War, to assist the 20,000 plus U.S. forces now in Bosnia. FSN will also be available to help the men and women who are called to duty because of the Bosnia deployment, even if they aren't actually sent to the war zone.

By calling a 24-hour, toll-free number, 1-800-504-4098, the Legion family can mobilize to assist GIs and their families with short-term financial problems or other emergencies. The American Legion is proud to have helped over 800 families and over 1,000 children of veterans during the Gulf War. We must be prepared to help Bosnia veterans and their families as this operation develops.

I think referring to U.S. troops in Bosnia as "peacekeepers" under-emphasizes the risks that could complicate this operation—or worse yet, could bring about a Vietnam-like quagmire where American forces die needlessly to avoid a political embarrassment. As veterans, we know it's a lot easier to put troops on the ground than to bring them back.

Our troops have much to be worried about. Bosnia has about 1,000 minefields with about 3 million mines that tend to detonate in cold weather, says *Jane's Defence Weekly*. One of our GIs, Martin John Begosh, already discovered this danger when he drove his Humvee over a land mine and suffered a fractured right leg, bruised abdomen and shrapnel wounds to his foot.



*Nat'l. Cmdr. Daniel A. Ludwig*

And we must not forget about the rifles, tanks, grenades and artillery in the hands of the Serbs, Croats and Moslem factions. It will not go unused for long; more casualties can be expected.

Our challenge is to make sure America honors service and valor, not only in Bosnia but here at home as well. Right here in the United States, respect for service is not as widespread as it needs to be.

In this issue, Alfred K. Whitehead, president of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) tells THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE that "firefighters are being shot and assaulted by thugs who have no respect for the job that they do." He says that violence against firefighters is a symptom of society's lack of respect for service to others. ("In the Line of Fire," Page 30.)

Some people also show disrespect for service and valor by conning our wartime heroes. Such is the case with those who steal Medals of Honor and other military decorations from those who earned them with their blood and courage under fire.

Worse yet, some people buy these stolen medals and pretend that they earned them, bragging to friends and exploiting hero status for business reasons. ("Stolen Honor," Page 28.)

In the end, however, the most serious and direct way to dishonor the military is to engage in decision-making that has an adverse impact on enlisted men and women.

In honoring service and valor, it helps to understand what it takes to be in the military. We train men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces to overcome obstacles by teaching them discipline, confidence, esprit de corps and battle tactics.

Our troops also receive weapons—from rifles to combat aircraft, from grenades to submarines—that allow them to use this training in the defense of America's vital national interests. As the Gulf War demonstrated to everyone, we have a well-trained, well-equipped force, the best in the world.

Today, most of our military has left the Gulf—for now—and has positioned itself for action in the Bosnia crisis. No one knows how much we will ultimately be called upon to do. Peacekeeping may not stay peaceful.

The Pentagon's drawdown reduced the size of our armed forces using the logic that our military would not be needed as much or as often as it was during the Cold War. This remains to be seen.

We also told ourselves that our superior technology would keep us the strongest force. Are we willing to keep paying for the research and development that will make this possible?

Our military might doesn't take care of itself. And neither do our service men and women. That's why they need to make The American Legion their armor and their air power. While many in today's society do not honor service and valor, The American Legion does and will always step forward on behalf of those who answer the call to arms in the service of our country. □







## SHOULD CONGRESS MAKE ENGLISH THE OFFICIAL U.S. LANGUAGE?

**Rep. Toby Roth (R-Wisconsin)**

For most of our nation's history, English has been the glue that has held our people together.

# YES



That's all changing. English is a foreign language to one in seven Americans. Today, Americans can vote, pay their taxes, take their driver's license exams and go to school entirely in languages other than English.

Written and oral driver's license tests in foreign languages are available in 40 states. California alone provides the exam in 31 languages. In the most recent mayoral election in Los Angeles, ballots were printed in six languages. The Internal Revenue Service printed tax forms in Spanish for the first time last year. Even the most symbolic act of citizenship—the naturalization ceremony—is not safe from this trend.

In many places in America, English is no longer the first language in school. By law, and with government funds, our children are now taught in dozens of languages—12 different languages in New York City alone. Instead of a first-rate education in English, students are taught in their native tongue, and English is rarely spoken.

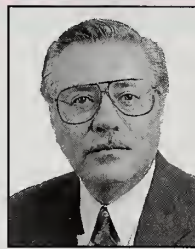
Surprised? The worst surprise of all is that we're paying for it. The American Legislative Exchange Council estimated that bilingual education alone costs \$8 billion a year. More important, programs like bilingual education divide our country by undermining the common bond that holds our country together—our language. That's why I have re-introduced my legislation to make English our official language.

Let me dispel some myths. Favoring English as our official language simply means that the primary language in schools is English, and that you vote and deal with the government in English. People will still be able, even encouraged, to speak and learn foreign languages and preserve their heritage. The only significant difference will be that government reinforces our common language rather than erodes it. For almost every American, this is just common sense.

In the past, our nation has been a shining example of how people from every background can live and work together in harmony. We must preserve the common bond that has kept this country of immigrants together for more than two centuries by making English our official language.

Our future as a united nation could very well depend on it. ☐

**Rep. Ed Pastor (D-Arizona)**



# NO

I oppose any legislation that would make English the official language of the United States. English is the primary language of the United States and, despite the misinformation that has been publicized, its status is not threatened by any other language.

The so-called "English only" legislation clearly stems from the current anti-immigrant movement in this country.

Unfortunately, everyone riding this anti-immigrant wave has forgotten the heavy contributions immigrants—both legal and undocumented—have made to the nation's tax base. By using this scapegoat, they avoid genuine discussions of the causes of our economic problems, and realistic solutions. But even without such a movement, there are many reasons to oppose "English-only" legislation.

An effort to impose an official language on our government and nation would be a radical change in U.S. federal policy with far-reaching negative consequences.

"English-only" initiatives seem to be grounded on the fear that the United States may become a dual-language country like Canada. Some perceive immigrants, particularly Spanish-speaking persons, as not wanting to learn English, but the opposite is true. Language minorities want to learn English and participate in American institutions. They know that a lack of English hampers their ability to become self-sufficient in the United States.

"English-only" initiatives create an environment of intolerance and exclusion. Varying degrees of hate crimes also have resulted.

To counter "English-only" initiatives, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus has introduced the English PLUS Act, which promotes English proficiency and other languages in the United States. In addition, the Hispanic Caucus also recognizes that knowledge of multiple languages has become a valuable asset for American businesses, particularly with the recent passages of GATT and NAFTA.

The Hispanic Caucus will continue to oppose "English-only" measures as they appear before Congress. My hope is that someday Americans will recognize the value of bilingualism and multilingualism and embrace other languages with the idea that such knowledge today is not a handicap, but an asset. ☐

### YOUR OPINIONS COUNT, TOO

Senators and Representatives are interested in constituent viewpoints. You may express your views by writing The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, or The Honorable (name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. Or, you may call the U.S. Senate at: (202) 224-3121; and the House at (202) 225-3121.



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## Born-Again Syrians

It sounds so good—peace between Israel and Syria. One problem, though, is that in exchange for its newfound spirit of brotherly love, Syria wants to be excised from the list of countries supporting the drug trade. This puts President Clinton in a bind: He identified Syria as a drug-producing or transit country in the State Department's 1995 narcotics report.

Nevertheless, quoting a diplomatic source, Compass Media reports that Clinton made a "secret promise" earlier this year to remove Syria from the drug doghouse (as well as from a list of countries supporting terrorism). The promise was supposedly conveyed to Syrian President Hafez al-Assad through Saudi Arabia's Foreign Ministry.

Aside from promoting peace, removing these stigmas would pave the way for U.S. foreign aid and private investment in Syria.

Which still leaves one other minor obstacle: continued evidence of Syria's development of chemical weapons. Lt. Gen. Anatoly Kuntsevich, former head of Russia's chemical weapons program, has been under investigation for smuggling nearly a ton of chemical weapons to Syria in 1993. Russian dissident Vil Mirzayanov says the chemicals were sent to the "Syrian Center for Ecological Protection," a chemical-weapons front company.

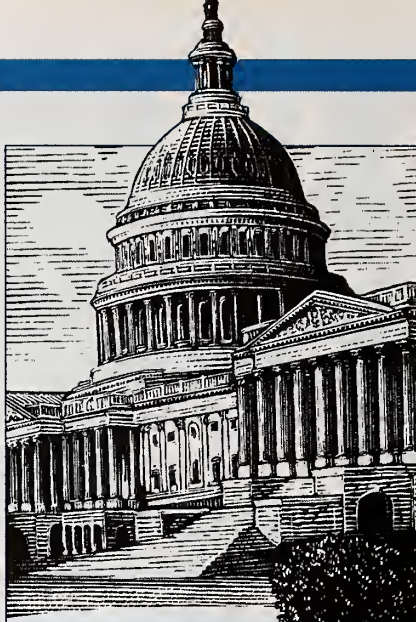
Such weapons would pose a significant threat to any GIs called upon to police a peace deal in the region.

## 'I See Wasted \$...'

By the time you read this, the government shutdown is—let us hope—history. Still, it may interest you to know that while all of Washington hunted desperately for budgetary fat in late November, the CIA was releasing details of a study on "Stargate," a secret \$20 million Defense Department program that employs psychics for intelligence-gathering purposes. Not surprisingly, the study found that the project has seldom produced useful information during its two decades of existence.

The psychics' primary task was so-

*Washington-based Cliff Kincaid writes for Human Events and other publications.*



## WASHINGTON WATCH

*By Cliff Kincaid*

called "remote viewing," in which they were asked to describe and locate specific people, places and objects; they were wrong about 85 percent of the time.

Most notably, the psychics were asked to pinpoint the location of Libyan strongman Muammar Qaddafi prior to the 1986 bombing of Tripoli, and to find American hostages being held on foreign soil.

Although the CIA noted that remote viewing was denounced as ineffective by the National Research Council as far back as 1987, Stargate has been shielded from attack by certain influential members of the Senate. The report does not identify the mystery senators.

## Money Talks....

Though touted as a victory for American diplomacy, evidently it was cold, hard cash that sealed the Bosnian peace deal. When it appeared that talks were stuck, World Bank President James Wolfensohn unstuck them with a behind-the-scenes promise of "reconstruction" loans to Bosnian President Izerbegovic.

The figures are steep: \$150 million is being provided as a down payment on about \$5 billion in economic aid; the International Monetary Fund

(IMF) is forking over additional big bucks.

Being seriously in debt is nothing new to Bosnia, which already owes more than a half-billion dollars to the World Bank and IMF.

## ...Army Balks

You'd never know by the gung-ho noises emanating from DoD, but the Pentagon is quietly nervous about the effect of the Bosnia deployment on our troops. The Army has financed several studies to gauge the impact of peacekeeping missions on morale, and the early returns aren't encouraging.

The latest survey, conducted by David R. Segal of the University of Maryland, finds that infantrymen dislike peacekeeping missions and would rather see others, like military police, get stuck with them.

Segal, who surveyed soldiers from two Army units that had performed peacekeeping functions in the Middle East, Somalia or Haiti, says neither unit "gleefully embraced the peacekeeping role."

In fact, he says, "Most soldiers in the units we studied do not believe that peacekeeping missions are appropriate for their units, or that peacekeeping assignments are good for their careers."

Segal's conclusion: Give the job to Reservists.

## The Ozone Squad

The government has just announced the first conviction ever for smuggling CFC-12 into the United States.

A new form of amphetamine, you ask? Some devastating plastic explosive favored by terrorists? Not quite. CFC-12, or dichlorofluoromethane, is the infamous ozone-depleting refrigerant once used commonly in automobile air conditioners.

Under the terms of a 1987 U.N. treaty, dichlorofluoromethane and other CFCs can no longer be produced legally.

The conviction was obtained by the Environmental Protection Agency's criminal-investigations division, whose special agents probe chemical violations of the Clean Air Act.

So black-marketeers, consider this a word to the wise: You may be able to smuggle heroin and crack cocaine across the border, but don't try to sneak in those CFCs! □



# Natural Prostate Relief

It's a natural fact. If you are a male over 40 and don't already suffer from a prostate gland disorder, the odds are 2 to 1 that you will before you are 59. By the age of 65, most American men have enlarged prostates.

As the years pass, mild discomforts can become disabling. Today, prostate surgery is the second most commonly performed surgery in men over age 65! Surgical complications can include total loss of bladder control and sexual dysfunction.

Prescription drugs may halt the swelling, but rarely end the suffering. Also, many prescription drugs may have side-effects, like weak erections and low sex drive.

Many doctors feel that prostate disorders can be treated or prevented by giving the prostate gland the nutrition it lacks.

Recent scientific research has shown how to remedy the underlying problems associated with prostate disorders--safely and effectively. These results have been published in the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*, the *American Journal of Gerontology*, and papers from the *National Cancer Institute*. They reveal that several vitamins, minerals and natural herbs can dramatically shrink the prostate and improve urinary performance in older men.

*"I can now pass a bathroom without stopping. Sometimes I pass two or three!"*

-- Mr. L. Johnston  
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## BOSNIA ONLINE

**N**ATIONAL Guard and Reserve units have been advised by the Defense Department that they can track deployments through BosniaLINK, the first Internet site for a military operation.

BosniaLINK is part of DefenseLINK on the World Wide Web, a computer "hub" that makes it easy to retrieve information from the Internet. It contains information such as fact sheets, biographical sketches of key military commanders, news releases and maps of where U.S. troops and other forces are deployed.

## FAMILY HELP

**T**HE LEGION's Family Support Network is ready to help the families of some 20,000 troops sent to Bosnia for peacekeeping. A 24-hour, toll-free number, 1-800-504-4098, can mobilize the Legion family to assist GIs and their families with short-term financial assistance or other emergencies.

## DENTAL PLAN

**A**CTIVE-duty personnel returning from overseas stations where dental care was not available and who have at least 12 months of service left may enroll family members in TRICARE's dental plan. Previously, sponsors must have had at least 24 months remaining. Enrollment deadline is within 30 days after return to CONUS.

## SAVINGS GRACES

**F**OR MOST active duty and reservists, saving money is a necessity to augment retirement pay and gain an edge on inflation. The most important step is getting started, and it doesn't matter if it's a regular savings account or a more specialized program such as an Individual Retirement Account.

How much you should save depends, obviously, on what you can afford. Most financial planners advise setting aside a certain percentage of your take-home pay. In some cases, you can have the money automatically deducted from your paycheck and deposited into a designated account.

Or, you might want to consider sliding your savings into a tax-deferred account, which drops you into a lower tax bracket. But take note: Taxes on the amount you save are only delayed, and there will come a time when Uncle Sam will want his share. Also, early withdrawal from a tax-deferred account usually carries a penalty, sometimes exceeding 10 percent.

# ON DUTY



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The American Legion  
Internal Affairs  
(Membership)  
P.O. Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

## HOME LOANS

**U**NDER current law, VA loan-guarantee eligibility for reservists and National Guard members expires Oct. 28, 1999. Eligibility for this benefit depends on duration of service and type of discharge.

According to VA, you qualify for a VA home loan if you have served at least six years in a Selected Reserve or National Guard unit, and have an honorable discharge. Reservists still serving are eligible as long as they meet the six-year requirement.

Reservists or National Guard members can also get a VA loan if they have served a minimum of 91 days on active duty during wartime.

## IN THE NEWS

**C**LINTON seeking bill to raise pay and housing allowances for GIs.... U.S. Army now considering an armored ambulance.... Army gets OK for production of the AH-64D Longbow attack helicopter and Longbow Hellfire missile....

U.S. Air Force's 1995 Quality-of-Life survey reveals two-thirds of active-duty troops would stay in service until retirement if allowed.... The Air Force continues to lead all services in the number of high-quality recruits.... Russia is still preparing for a nuclear war with America, according to U.S. intelligence.... DoD now assisting Russia restrict access to nuclear weapons with a personnel screening program.... Congress approved purchase of 60 Black Hawk helicopters and six F-15s for FY96.... Japan to cut military forces by 20 percent.

## NOT AN MRE

**I**F YOU'RE overseas and just about had it with military and local cuisine, you can get a little taste of home. As a perk, the military will ship consumables to you, whether you're in Ouagadougou, Burkina, or Nouakchott, Mauritania. On a first tour, service members can ship from 1,000 to 3,000 pounds of consumables, depending on where they are stationed. For each year of a tour extension, you can ship from 350 to 2,000 pounds. And for every year on an extension, you can ship 1,000 more pounds. You still have to buy the food.

## DISNEY DEAL

**W**ANT TO see Mickey, but at minny prices? Try Shades of Green in Orlando, Fla. The Armed Forces Recreation Center leases this 288-room facility adjacent to Walt Disney World for use by active duty, DoD civilian employees, retirees and reservists families. Charges for the luxury hotel are much less than others on the Disney property. For more information write to Shades of Green, P.O. Box 22789, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830; or for reservations, call 1-407-824-3600. □



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# RAISING OKLAHOMA



**CLASS ACT**—Ponca City school teacher Cindy Chandler leads a class at The American Legion's Children's Home. About half of the children at the home attend schools in town.

*For 68 years, The American Legion Children's Home in Ponca City, Okla., has been tending to the emotional needs of veterans' kids.*

**M**ATT G. didn't have many strikes left in life. His home was a nightmare of physical neglect and abuse, until his father was jailed and his mother abandoned him.

Committed by juvenile court in 1991 to The American Legion Children's Home in Ponca City, Okla., Matt discovered a new world filled with people who care. He immediately began to receive counseling to overcome the trauma inflicted on him by his early life, and soon he excelled in his studies at the home.

Within two years he was placed with a foster family. Today he is doing just great, according to all reports. He's involved in numerous extra-curricular events at his high school and is scheduled to graduate in 1997.

Matt is just one of thousands of veterans' children who, since 1928, have entered The American Legion Children's Home confused and alone, and later left with the proper direction, dis-

cipline and guidance to make a better life for themselves.

A children's home alumna, Barbara Mahorney Alusi, recalled her years at the home in her book, *My Home, The Home of Many*, written in 1986: "The aim of The American Legion was to provide and maintain for the children a comfortable and well ordered homelife in suitable surroundings, sound moral and religious training, education in public schools, training in citizenship and love of country."

For nearly seven decades, children at the home in the Osage Hills of north central Oklahoma have been learning those strong traditional values.

The home took root in 1925 from an American Legion nationwide campaign to raise \$5 million for a national child welfare endowment. Each Legion Department was assigned its fair share of the goal. Thanks to a partnership between veterans and business leaders, Oklahoma doubled its quota. The Department sent its share of \$75,000 to Indianapolis and used the remaining \$75,000 to establish its own welfare

program. The American Legion Home School was one of the first dividends paid by the fund.

Today, Oklahoma American Legion Posts and Auxiliary Units help sponsor each of the 52 children at the home by providing money for clothing and gifts for birthdays and holidays—and by offering personal care that carries no price tag.

The home's children range in age from 9 to 18, and live in four recently rebuilt dormitories. Half of them attend public schools and the other half receive in-home remedial classes to prepare them for transition to city schools.

In its early years the home housed war orphans and motherless kids whose fathers couldn't care for them due to a war-related injury or medical conditions. Nowadays all the children are court-committed to the home after judges find they have been abused, neglected or abandoned. Nonetheless, says Ken Adams, the home's executive director, "Over the years, I'd say 95 percent of our children are still veterans' children."

Another thing that hasn't changed: the need for money to keep things going. In a \$1 million fund-raising campaign begun in 1993, Oklahoma Posts and Auxiliary Units raised \$310,000 to erect a new administration building and more classrooms. Two Oklahoma-based foundations promised an additional \$150,000 each in challenge grants. Adams says these conditional pledges will expire in October if they are not matched.

But Adams remains upbeat. He and his 38-member staff are dedicated to providing a home in which the children's normal growth-and-development needs are met. And Oklahoma Legionnaires and Auxiliary members stand right behind them.

Commenting on the Oklahoma Legionnaires' commitment to the home, writer Boyd Stutler sometime ago wrote, "They believe in the home they have created; visit with the children, play with younger ones and counsel the older. Result: The home has been made a real home and not just another institution."

The proof? Matt G. and all the rest of the children who come to the home in despair and leave with hope. □

—By Anthony Miller



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# THE LAST BATTLESHIP

Can America afford to turn its most powerful warships into tourist attractions?

By Miles Z. Epstein

**T**HEY ARE almost 900 feet long and 108 feet wide. Their 16-inch guns can propel a shell as heavy as your car nearly 30 miles—and with enough explosive power to blast a crater 100 feet in diameter. Add to that a dozen 5-inch guns, four 20mm, six-barrel Phalanx “Gatling Guns,” 32 Tomahawk cruise missiles and 16 Harpoon anti-ship missiles, and the modern American battleship is a floating arsenal.

Unfortunately, it is also a doomed arsenal, on a course toward oblivion. If the Navy gets its way, say experts, the legendary firepower of these vessels will fade into history. Their powerful 16-inch guns will be silenced forever, victims of Beltway belt-tightening.

And if that happens, it will spell the

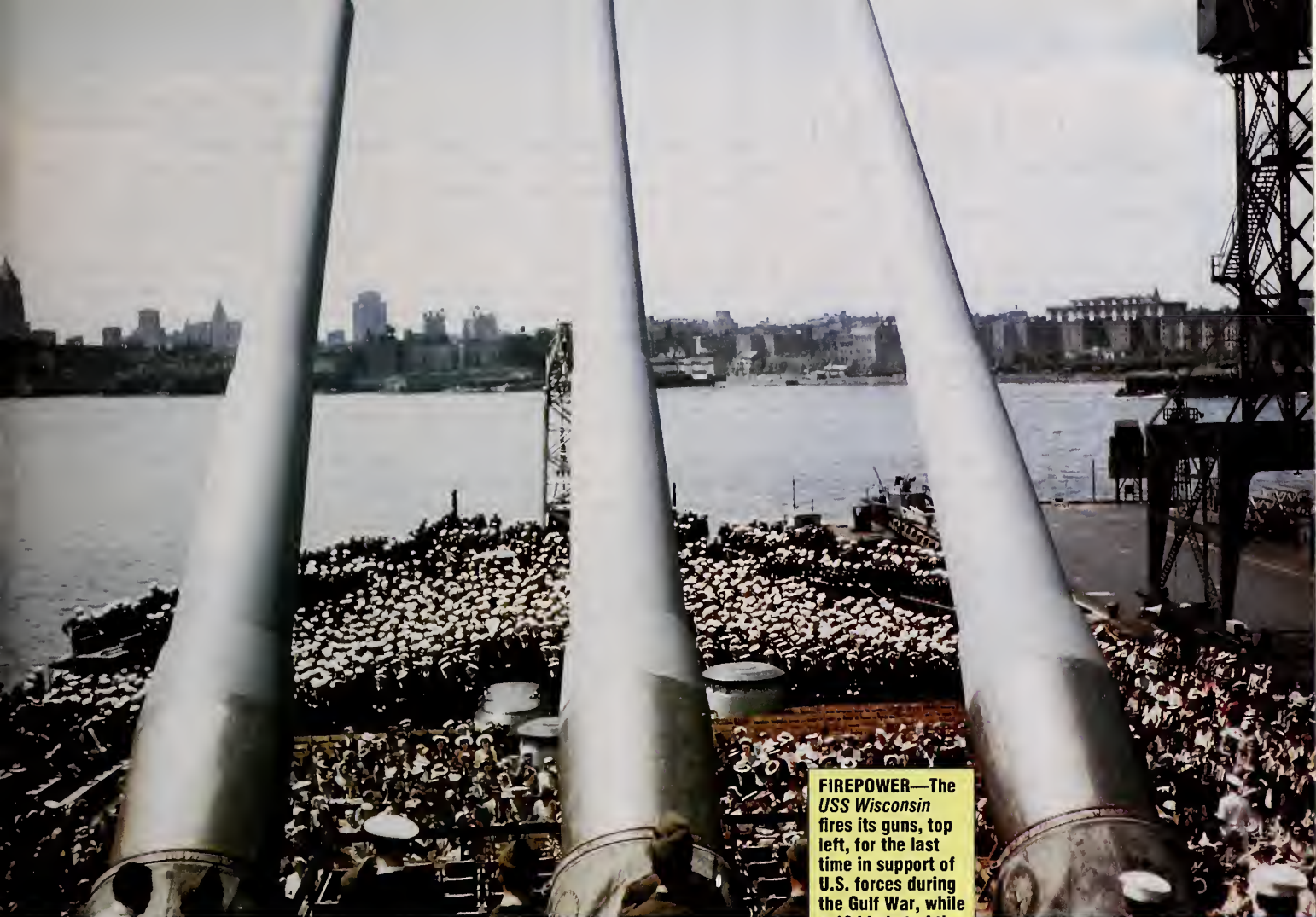
*Miles Z. Epstein is Executive Editor of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE.*

end to what some observers have called “the battleship century.” The first such vessel, the *USS Indiana*, put to sea in November 1895. The last two battleships to fly the U.S. flag in service of the Navy, the *USS Missouri* and *Wisconsin*, saw action in the Gulf War, firing their 16-inch guns and launching cruise missiles at Iraqi targets ashore—a fearsome last hurrah, perhaps, as both ships are destined to join the Navy’s only two other remaining battleships, the *Iowa* and the *New Jersey*, as museums. Or scrap metal.

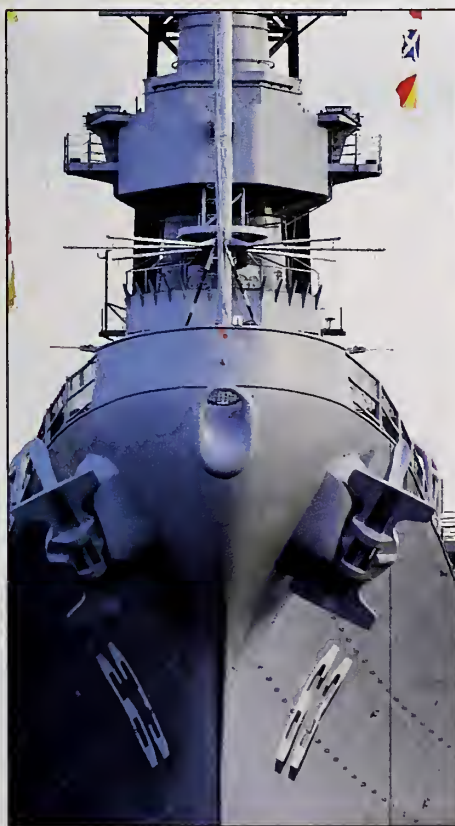
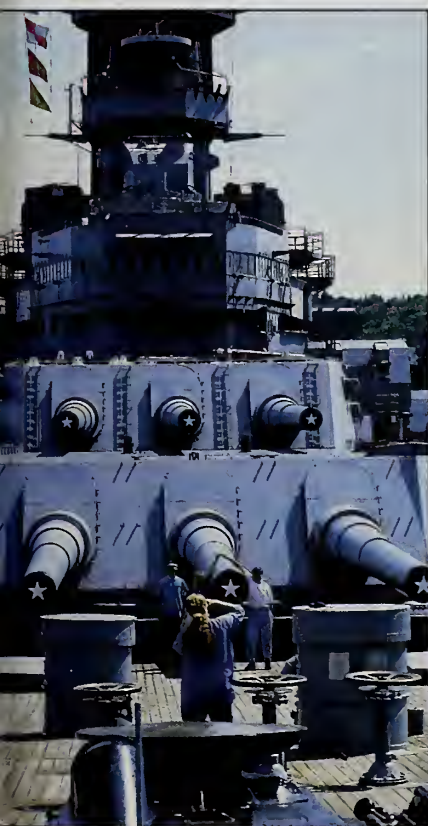
“It’s hurtful to even think about,” says David Graham, founder and chairman of the American Battleship Association. Like many battleship aficionados, Graham harbors fond memories of his time aboard the great warships. “Back during the Depression,” he says, “you had a lot of men enlisting who didn’t have any money, and the Navy didn’t have the money to move these people around, either. So these men found a place for themselves on the







**FIREPOWER**—The *USS Wisconsin* fires its guns, top left, for the last time in support of U.S. forces during the Gulf War, while a 1944 shot of the *USS Missouri*, above, demonstrates the longevity of these legendary ships. From World War II to the present, the battleship has been an awesome presence as the photos of the *Missouri* today, left, prove.



battleship.”

And once they found that refuge, they stayed. Graham recalls that when he first went aboard the *USS Idaho*, “we had 50 or 75 people who’d been on that ship for

10 to 15 years! When you’re on the ship that long, you know every store-room, every ladder, every compartment. It’s just like living in your own home.” He pauses, then says softly, “It is your home.”

Graham adds that with that level of personal attachment and esprit de corps, “once the war started, it was as if the whole family was going off to battle together.”

Of course, there is little place for such nostalgia in the Navy’s reasoning. Officially, Navy Secretary John Dalton has simply decided that the price tag for keeping America’s battleships afloat is too steep. The ships were reactivated in the 1980s at a cost of \$425



# BATTLESHIP

million each, and statistics from *Jane's Defence Weekly* reveal that it would cost the Navy \$95 million per ship to make the last four Iowa Class battleships fully combat-ready again. These old ships use some old equipment that will need spare parts, from gun barrels to ammo, which are not being manufactured anymore.

And in order for battleships to be reactivated, they must be kept in a reserve status called "mothballs" at a cost of \$100,000 per ship per year.

**A** NAVY spokesperson explains that "We don't want to retain them.... We have other ships that can do the battleship's jobs for less money." He cites the Spruance destroyer, which has twice the ordnance and greater range, and says naval airpower can take the place of the battleship's 16-inch guns during amphibious landings. Ultimately, he says, the matter is "up to Congress."

Battleships also make other costly demands in time and money. "Battleships require crews who are well-trained and know what they are doing," says John Reilly, a historian for the Naval Historical Center in Washington, D.C. "You have to go out and shoot regularly."

As Vietnam veteran Charles C. Thompson II points out, "If you make a mistake with the guns on a battleship, you can blow yourself and your ship right out of the water."

Thompson, a Navy veteran and a producer for CBS' *60 Minutes*, would know. He is author of the forthcoming book, *Terror on the Bridge: Unraveling the USS Iowa Frameup*. The Iowa, of course, was the ill-fated ship that made headlines in 1989 when a gun turret exploded, killing 47 sailors and igniting a firestorm of controversial accusations.

It turned out that one of the Iowa's gun turrets had been used improperly and unspent powder was exposed to hot gasses. Later investigations showed that the fire could indeed have destroyed the entire vessel.

Thompson suspects that despite all the talk about money, it was actually the Iowa disaster that sealed the fate of all battleships. "Once the outcry started after the explosion on the *USS Iowa*, those ships were down the tubes," he

says. "The accident set the tone."

The image of the battleship had already been tarnished by the performance of the *New Jersey* in support of U.S. peacekeeping forces in Lebanon in 1983. Its 16-inch guns delivered devastating hits on civilian areas in addition to intended military targets.

Modern high-tech missiles have been offered as a further reason to retire the battleships. Capable of being delivered by attacking aircraft, land-based missile batteries or other ships, these weapons have made all surface ships more vulnerable to damage and destruction.

However, critics of the Navy's decision say the idea that we can somehow find an "unsinkable" replacement for battleships is not only unrealistic, but typical of the misleading justifications given for scrapping these ships. "There is no such thing as an unsinkable ship," says naval historian Reilly. "If the test of some weapon is whether it can be destroyed, then the infantryman has been obsolete for 10,000 years."

According to *Operation Desert Shield*, a special report published during the Gulf War, battleships were "built to withstand repeated hits from 3,300 pound Japanese 18-inch naval gun shells, 2,200 pound bombs and 24-inch torpedoes and keep on fighting." No modern ship has so much protection.

In fact, far from wondering if we can afford battleships, some informed observers ask: Can we afford to be without them?

They cite D.A. Levinson's book, *The United States Armed Forces Today*, which notes, "The huge *USS New Jersey* was reactivated into service at less than half the cost of operating a new frigate."

They also can't understand how the U.S. Navy could turn some of its most powerful ships into tourist attractions. "The battleship is not an antique; it is not a museum," says former Iowa captain Larry Seaquist.

"Their 16-inch guns built in the 1930s and 1940s remain the finest guns in the world and the computers that lay [aim] the guns remain better than modern digital computers."

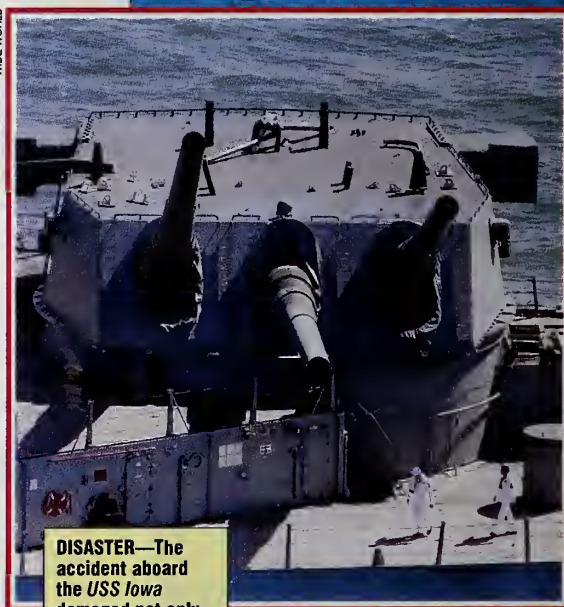
What's more, says Seaquist, "The

times have finally caught up with what battleships should really be used for. Battleships are ideal for peacekeeping and regional conflicts with a smaller post-Cold War Navy. You get this great forward presence out of them that works well deterring crisis."

There is no questioning the ship's ability to provide cover fire during amphibious landings, a role in which the battleship has no peer. "Without the battleship and its 16-inch guns, the Navy is missing a lethal gunfire support system for amphibious landings," says retired Navy Capt. Fred P. Moosally, another former Iowa captain. "The Marines will miss it."

Naval historian Reilly agrees. "You

WIDE WORLD



**DISASTER**—The accident aboard the *USS Iowa* damaged not only the gun turret, above, but the reputation and future of all battleships, experts say.

U.S. NAVY



can't use Tomahawk cruise missiles at \$2 million a pop to provide sustained artillery fire for amphibious landings," he says. "And you can't bring enough artillery ashore. I wouldn't be surprised if we miss what the battleship can do. And if I were a Marine, I would be worried."

Former *Iowa* captain Seaquist adds, "There are a lot of things that cruise missiles can do but nothing has the firepower of a 16-inch gun."

Besides its cost-effective role as an

artillery piece for amphibious assault landings, the battleship could still be useful in regional conflicts where a deterrent is needed, says Seaquist: "What the Navy does these days is try to influence events ashore. And that's what a battleship does.... When we would sail the *Iowa* down the Straits of Hormuz during the Iran-Iraq War, all southern Iran would go quiet. We were in an active tanker war and Iran's Revolutionary Guard were steaming around in ships with rockets and shooting at

ships. When we arrived, all of that stuff stopped."

Not at all surprising, given author Stephen Ambrose's stirring depiction of the battleships' firepower at Normandy: "It was as if Zeus were hurling thunderbolts," writes Ambrose in *D-Day*. "The noise, the concussion, the great belches of fire from the muzzle, made an unforgettable impression on every man present."

Military historian Walter J. Boyne, author of *Clash of Titans: World War II at Sea*, also has great respect for the battleship. "Battleships have saved thousands of lives and were a great preventer of battles," says Boyne, former

*Please turn to page 49*



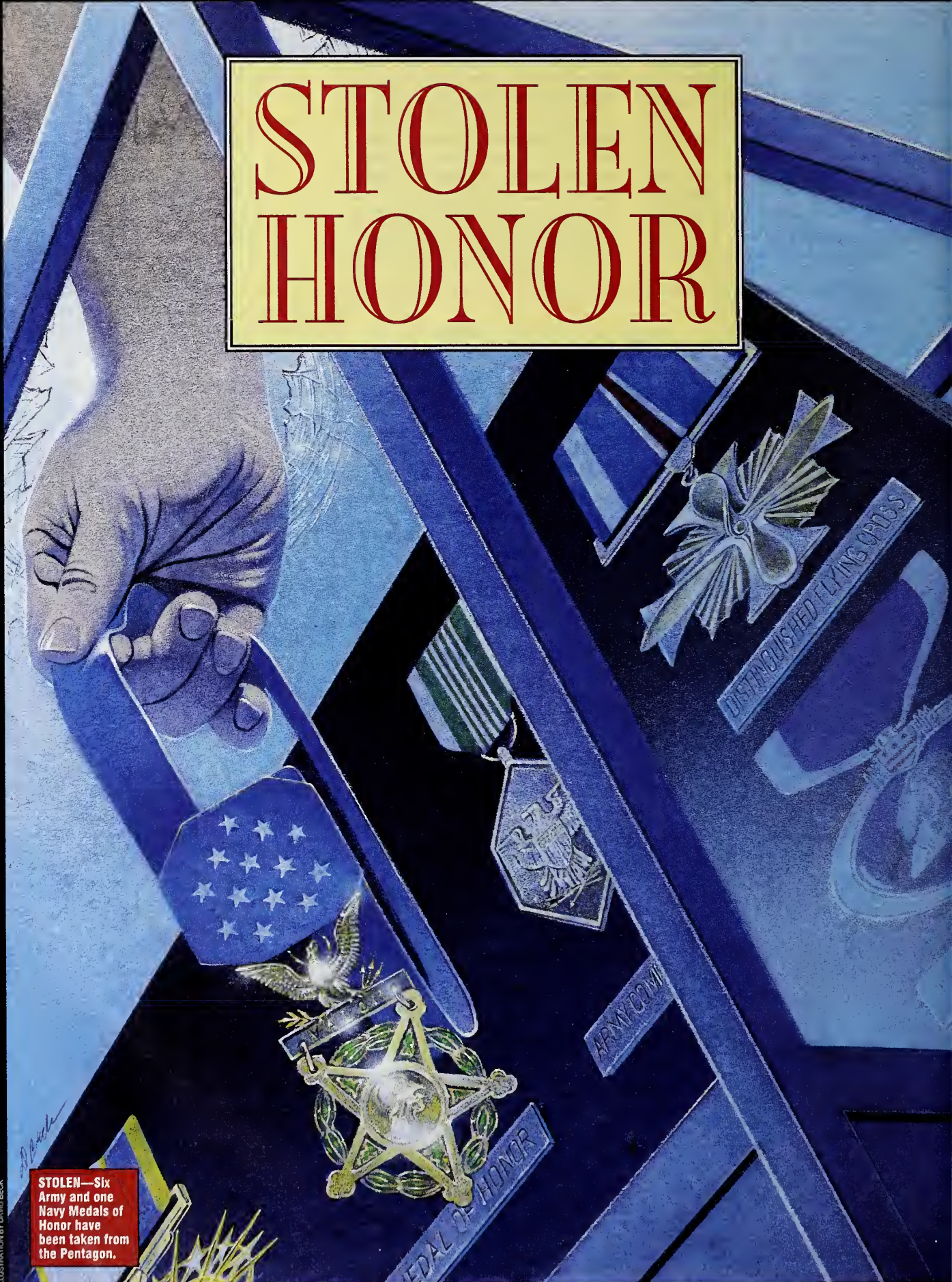
**FINAL FAREWELL—**  
The *USS Wisconsin*,  
*New Jersey* and *Iowa*,  
above, rest in  
mothballs as  
Congress debates  
whether to take the  
Navy's advice and  
retire them for good.  
Below, The *Wisconsin*  
sails the Gulf of  
Mexico as an example  
of U.S. military might.



**"Blimey, sir, they're firing jeeps...."**  
—Awe-stricken British paratrooper John Howard, describing  
the support fire from battleships, as quoted in Stephen  
Ambrose's *D-Day, The Climactic Battle of World War II*.



# STOLEN HONOR



**STOLEN**—Six Army and one Navy Medals of Honor have been taken from the Pentagon.

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID BECK



Authorities nationwide are ferreting out brazen thieves and vile con men who steal and sell military medals that were paid for in blood and courage.

BY SUSAN KATZ KEATING

**T**HE DEALER at last November's military memorabilia show in Fort Belvoir, Va., eyed the two intensely serious young men as they moved from table to table around the display rooms. These weren't just a couple of casual browsers, the dealer thought; the men obviously were searching for something. They sifted through plastic tubs containing handfuls of Purple Hearts, Bronze Stars, Legion of Merit awards and elaborate foreign decorations. They examined glass cases of carefully pinned Silver Stars, Distinguished Flying Crosses, Good Conduct Medals and more.

Earlier, one of the men had explained that he and his companion were "amateur historians and preservationists" seeking memorabilia connected to a particular military unit.

The dealer, however, regarded the pair with sad resignation. "They look like federal agents," he lamented. "Wouldn't surprise me. We've had some bad apples popping up in our community lately."

The "bad apples" to which the Virginia dealer referred? Con men who specialize in theft and fraud of military medals. Even for thieves, they are especially brazen, particularly heartless. Brazen enough, in some cases, to steal medals directly from display cases at the Pentagon. Heartless enough, in at least a few cases, to pilfer medals from the recipients' widows. To today's traffickers in stolen honor, nothing is sacred. There is even a burgeoning black market in the Medal of Honor—the nation's highest military award for gallantry in action—in spite of stern

federal laws prohibiting the sale, trade or barter of the esteemed decoration.

In recent months, the thieves' activities have prompted FBI and police investigations spanning a dozen states, resulting in arrests and in the recovery of tens of thousands of dollars worth of stolen medals. The recovered medals had been sold or offered for sale on the lucrative collectors' market, where individual medals sell for anywhere from \$5 to \$70,000, depending on rarity. And, much to the dismay of legitimate hobbyists, the rash of thefts and frauds has prompted law-enforcement agencies to increase scrutiny of the collectors community, and to stake out some of the weekend medals shows.

The tactic paid off for the FBI last April, when a war memorabilia dealer allegedly sold two Medals of Honor to an undercover agent working a New Jersey medals show. According to FBI spokesman Ann Todd, dealer Robert S. Nemser charged the agent \$510 for an Army version of the medal, and \$485 for an Air Force version and a service bar. Nemser was arrested by FBI agents. He is believed to be the first person prosecuted under a 1994 crime bill enhancing the penalty for selling the Medal of Honor. He was released on bail after pleading not guilty.

Law-enforcement authorities who spoke to THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE on condition of anonymity said the FBI is conducting a much wider probe ranging across 10 states.

"The medals he sold were authentic, but lacked the usual inscription of the recipient's name on the back," says one official. "We believe the medals were illegally manufactured, and that this is an ongoing activity—in which case, there is major trouble brewing."

The ever-widening Medal of Honor investigation was prompted by information arising from the bizarre case of Stephen V. Pyne, a Maryland man charged last year with felony theft of medals belonging to dozens of the nation's highest-decorated heroes.

According to Maryland authorities and the victims, Pyne would arrange to interview his targets for a book or thesis he supposedly was researching. In this manner, he gained access to such notables as retired Army Gen. Andrew Goodpaster, former Supreme Allied Commander for Europe, and retired Navy Capt. Ned Beach, author of *Run Silent, Run Deep*, the classic book on submarine warfare.

Pyne would examine the retirees' memorabilia in their homes and would offer to encase their medals in elegant shadow-box displays. Once he had the medals in his possession, Pyne would sell them to dealers or collectors. What he returned to his 40 victims was a set of framed replacements.

Pyne's attorney, Brian Bowersox, first contended that Pyne thought he had been "given" the medals or that he had them on loan. Pyne later pleaded guilty to charges of theft and was scheduled to be sentenced in late January.

"It was an absolute con," says Mary Woolnough, whose husband, retired Army Gen. James E. Woolnough, was able to recover the medals from Pyne.

And who is the end-of-the-line consumer for, say, a fraudulent Medal of Honor? Someone like Judge Michael O'Brien. This past December, the Illinois jurist and former Navy veteran resigned from the bench after admitting that the Medal of Honor which hung in his chamber was, in fact, a hoax. Subsequent investigation revealed that Judge O'Brien had purchased not one, but two Medals of Honor, and had them engraved with his name. O'Brien enjoyed regaling visitors to his chamber with fictitious tales

*Please turn to page 47*



Susan Katz Keating wrote "The \$60,000 Cat..." in the February issue of this magazine.



ALFRED K. WHITEHEAD

# In The Line Of Fire

**Unfortunately, professional firefighters aren't just fighting fires anymore. They wage a constant battle against street gangs, budget shortfalls and professional rivalries.**

**M**

ILLIONS OF us longed to be firefighters when we grew up. None of us escapes the sound of their sirens. All of us expect the firefighter to be ready if and when our lives are at stake in a burning home or office. No doubt you'd consider it unthinkable to do anything that might hamper a firefighter as he attempts to rescue a family from tragedy.

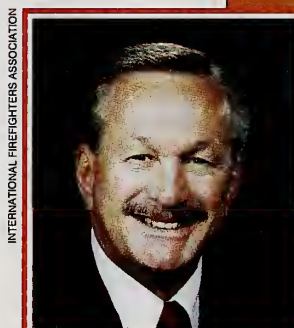
Sadly, today, the unthinkable has become not only thinkable, but commonplace. So says Alfred K. Whitehead, president of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), which represents professional firefighters, paramedics and emergency service personnel throughout the United States and Canada. Whitehead pens a disturbing job description in which firefighters are the targets of gang violence and city budget-cutters, as well as private firms that care more about profits than people. Whitehead's account of the dilemma faced daily by IAFF's 210,000 members is just one more symptom of a society losing respect for such traditional values as service to others and the sanctity of human life.

Whitehead has been in harm's way his entire adult life. Before assuming leadership of the IAFF, he served in the Merchant Marine and the Army, then spent almost three decades as a firefighter in the Los Angeles County Fire Department, where he rose to the rank of captain.

In this interview, he tells THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE what it's really like to be in the line of fire.

**AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE:** Our cities are plagued with crime and violence. How has this affected firefighters?

**ALFRED K. WHITEHEAD:** It used to be a very straightforward job in responding to the scene of an emergency and rescuing people from burning buildings. Unfortunately,



INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

WHITEHEAD

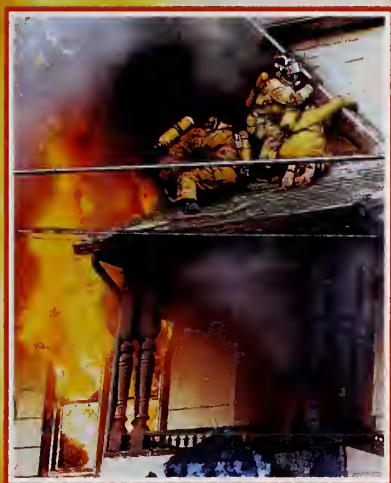
our people are now being shot at and assaulted by thugs who have no respect for the job that we do. This is a sad commentary on how many people have lost respect for the sanctity of human life. It says something terrible about the way society's values are changing.

In some major cities today, police units usually roll out with fire units to protect them from gang violence and thugs who get some type of personal pleasure out of hurting firefighters who are trying to save lives. When firefighters risk their lives, part of the bargain was never dodging bullets and evading knives and blocks of wood with sharp points. Fighting fires and entering burning warehouses is risky enough without having our people used for target practice.

**Q.** What examples of violence toward firefighters can you cite?

**A.** As you may remember, a firefighter was shot in the face during the civil unrest in L.A. There have also been cases of drive-by shootings at fire stations, and firefighters being shot at while on aerials and snorkels [high-positioned platforms for firefighting]. Usually, it's not a face-to-face confrontation with our people, but it does happen on occasion. Most of the time, it comes from a domestic dispute where someone has been hurt and our people





**NEW DANGERS—**  
Fire and smoke are  
old-time foes, but  
now firefighters  
have become  
targets of people  
in the streets.

trying to administer first aid are caught in the middle.

**Q.** What impact has terrorism had on the fire service and how does it affect the general public?

**A.** The tragic events in New York City [World Trade Center] and Oklahoma City [Federal Building] were a wake-up call for the American people and the fire service. No one was really prepared for this, but unfortunately terrorism on U.S. soil is now a reality.

You have to be prepared and have an incident-command system in place. You almost plot it out as if it were a war. It is a war that will require firefighters and rescue workers to train for special emergencies and plan the logistics of handling these large scale operations.

Many of our members are veterans and they know what war is all about. Fighting. Planning. Executing. Always know how to get in and how to get out. Military experience is a definite plus when you are a professional firefighter.

**Q.** What other attributes do veterans bring to the fire service?

**A.** Veterans have already gone through some kind of training and regimentation so they understand that the

*Please turn to page 50*

## HIGHLIGHTS

### *Alfred K. Whitehead On...*

**Firefighters:** "They are willing to put their lives on the line for people they don't even know."

**Violence:** "When firefighters risk their lives, part of the bargain was never dodging bullets and evading knives and blocks of wood with sharp points."

**Veterans:** "When you've been in the service, you know how to follow orders. And in the fire service, that's exactly what needs to happen at the scene of an emergency."

1. KROCHAK/WIREIMAGE.COM; 2. STATE JOURNAL REGISTER



# Jailhouse CROCK

*Today's prison inmates are flooding the courts with suits designed to kill time, improve prison life—or just plain annoy the hell out of the rest of us.*

*He preferred chunky-style peanut butter. He got a sandwich made with creamy. So he sued....*

*He wanted to attend church service naked. The warden said no. So he sued....*

*His entire adult life he'd been dealing heavy drugs. Now people were forcing him to stop. So he sued....*

**T**HAT THE above lawsuits were filed at all seems absurd enough. What's truly mind-boggling to many observers is that these lawsuits are among the tens of thousands filed each year from inside prison.

And at guess-who's expense.

"This is one of the most under-recognized problems in criminal justice today," says James Gomez, who, as director of California's Department of Corrections, supervises the state's massive prison network. "These suits create an administrative logjam and drain the system of funds."

The number of suits has soared from a few hundred per year in the 1960s to some 50,000 in 1993 (the last year for which figures were available). Far from being just another of life's harmless outrages, the flurry of prison lawsuits has far-reaching side effects. Like a malignant cancer, the bogus actions crowd out other types of claims, forcing people with legitimate complaints to wait many extra months for their day in court. In the federal courts of Arizona and Iowa, prisoners account for 48 percent of all civil litigation; Missouri and Arkansas check

in at 46 and 42 percent, respectively. At one point in mid-1994, Illinois had over 1,200 ongoing cases.

Defending the suits requires an enormous withdrawal from already overburdened state treasuries. Former New York Attorney General Oliver Koppell once estimated that a fifth of his departmental budget went toward prisoners' lawsuits. This, in turn, has a direct bearing on the number of new cases that are plea-bargained or shelved entirely because the legwork to pursue them is not considered cost-effective. The upshot? "Dangerous thugs go back on the streets much sooner than they ought to," noted Koppell.

Once law-enforcement budgets are stretched to capacity, the money to fight jailhouse lawsuits must be siphoned out of general funds. When this happens, the pinch is felt everywhere. Florida's efforts to rebuild from Hurricane Andrew were hampered, at least in part, by the need to divert increasing sums to the processing of lawsuits brought by its inmates, according to Kim Tucker, a senior attorney who has overseen many of the cases on Florida's behalf.

The fact that many of the suits are dismissed or decided in the state's favor is beside the point. "For us and the taxpayers the cost is the simple fact of litigation—the actual running of the lawsuits through multiple years in court," says Tucker. "Even where we win, we lose." On average, each action ends up costing Florida taxpayers \$50,000.

"The things that really are important to the good citizens don't get done







because of some clown down at the prison who raped your sister, abused your daughter, robbed your store," says Arizona attorney general Grant Woods. "We thought we put them away to protect society, but they're still ruining things for everyone else."

**M**UCH of the litigation is generated by lifers or men on death row—cons who have little or nothing to lose by jamming court dockets with an endless stream of paperwork. (Inmates with a shot at parole are less likely to make waves for fear of being labeled troublemakers.) These convicts file suits simply to kill time or alleviate boredom. "[Filing lawsuits] gives them an opportunity to travel outside the prison system," says California's Gomez. "They may get to visit different cities, stay in hotels, do things they'd normally never have a chance to do. At the very least, they get to leave the grounds to attend court."

For others, glamour plays a role. If the case catches the eye of the media, reaches the appeals stage, or changes prison policy, the convict wins celebrity status. Sometimes a suit filed from prison ends up rewriting the law. The best-known examples are *Escobido* (where suspects won the right to have counsel present at questioning) and *Miranda* (the case that inspired the familiar litany of "rights" now read to someone upon arrest).

Granted, the legislation resulting from those cases is considered an important addition to civil rights. But too often the men at the heart of such cases become jailhouse legends whose crimes, and victims, tend to be forgotten.

Even when the results are less dramatic, the suit can pay huge chest-thumping dividends. For many cons, lawsuits constitute payback time, an opportunity to turn the tables on cops, guards, wardens and others who enjoy authority over them.

"They want to stick it to the system," says Nevada Attorney General Frankie Sue Del Papa, citing actions that frivolously hinged on the shape of  
*Please turn to page 51*

#### WHAT THEY SUE FOR

- Special meats and shellfish
- Access to automobiles
- Premium mattresses
- Controlled substances
- Chunky-style peanut butter
- Male strippers and prostitutes
- Salad at lunch
- Better shoes and clothing



# SNOW, SKY & SALT



**The majestic Wasatch Mountains form the backdrop for the Legion's 78th National Convention in Salt Lake City.**



**By Joe Stuteville**

**T**HEY HAD endured persecution for more than two decades, so they made their way west, seeking the freedom to practice their religious faith. They found it on that mid-summer day in 1847, when they reached a vantage point near the Wasatch Mountains.

Legend has it the group's leader, Brigham Young, gazed down into the valley below and quietly said, "This is the right place."

Young and his followers, members

*Joe Stuteville is Executive Editor of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE.*

of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, immediately went to work planting crops and making the hard-scrabble bloom. The Mormons called the community they were building the "Great Salt Lake City" in honor of the nearby water mass. Prosperity blossomed when the California gold rush began and continued when the trans-continental railroad chugged westward. And as other settlers moved into the valley, construction of one of America's best-known man-made landmarks was completed when the capstone of the Mormon Temple was put in position in 1892.

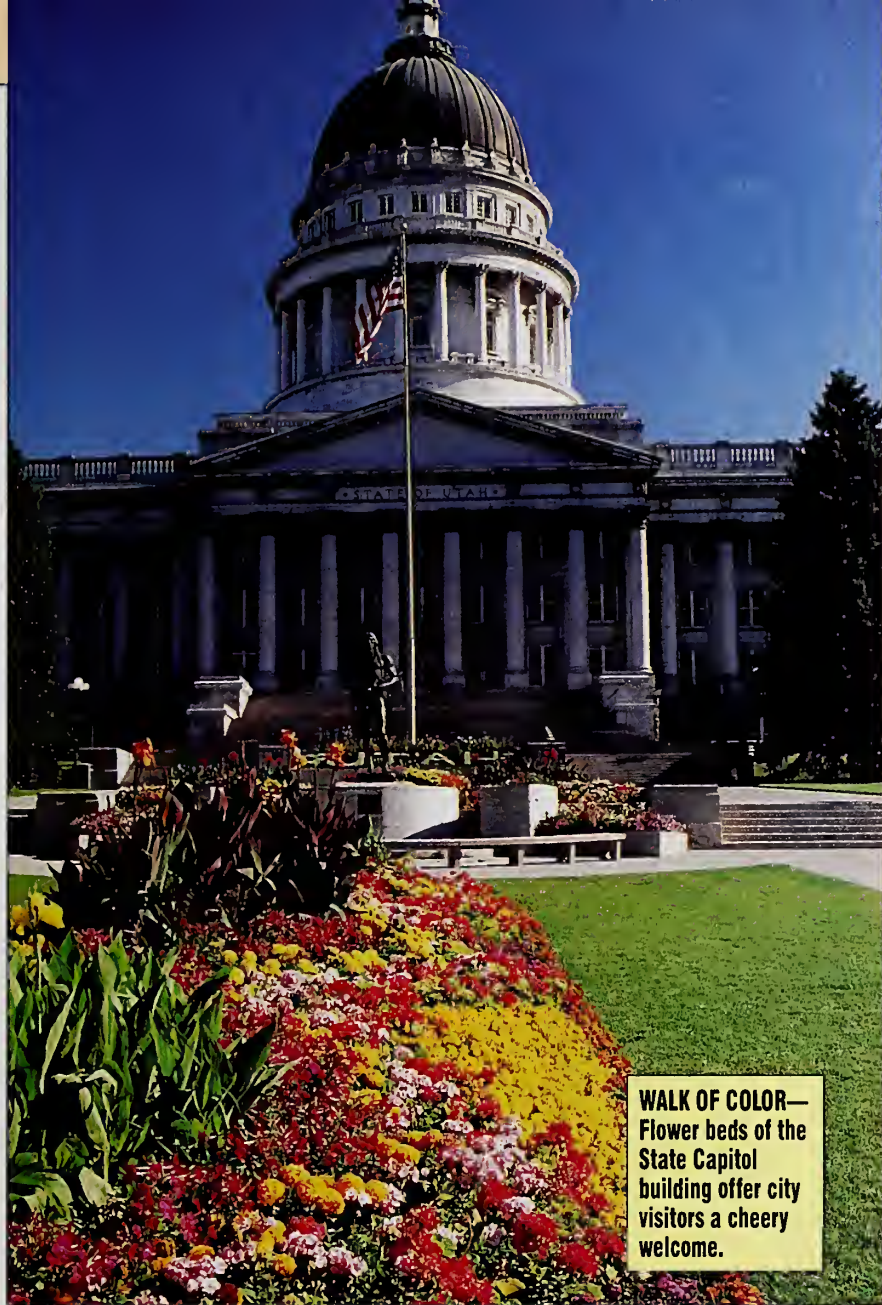
Salt Lake City again will be the right place, this time for Legionnaires when they gather for the 78th American Legion National Convention, Aug. 30-Sept. 5, 1996. The occasion will





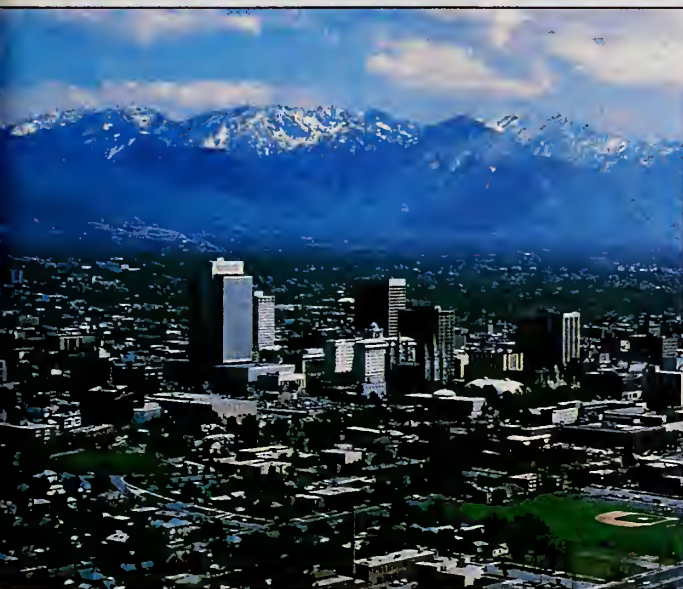
**STATELY SPIRES—**  
The towering  
Mormon Temple is  
one of the city's  
most popular  
attractions.

JENNIFER LINDGREN



**WALK OF COLOR—**  
Flower beds of the  
State Capitol  
building offer city  
visitors a cheery  
welcome.

JENNIFER LINDGREN



SALT LAKE CITY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

## This Is The Place !

**REMINDER—**The  
modest skyline  
conveys a gentle  
hint of a city  
rich in values.

mark the second time the Legion has held its annual meeting in Utah's capital city. At the 1984 convention, presidential candidates Ronald Reagan and Walter Mondale were keynote speakers. And it's likely the two candidates winning their party's nominations for president this summer will be invited to address American Legion convention delegates.

"The natural scenic beauty, recreational opportunities and historic attractions of Utah are assets to be enjoyed by all visitors," Utah Gov. Michael O. Leavitt wrote in a recent letter to American Legion National Convention officials. "Salt Lake City is literally the crossroads of the West and the center of a dynamic and flourishing state and region."

Convention business will unfold in



# SNOW, SKY & SALT

**NEARBY—**  
About 30  
minutes  
away is Park  
City, a fully  
preserved  
old silver  
mining  
town.



the spacious Salt Palace Convention Center. National Headquarters hotels will be the Red Lion and Little America Hotel. Department hotel assignments were being finalized at press time. (A complete listing of the hotel assignments will appear in an upcoming magazine article). But Legionnaires also will want to take in some of the local attractions during the week-long convention. "Nowhere in the United States will you find the variety of convention facilities, entertainment and recreational opportunities that you will in Salt Lake City," contends Salt Lake City Mayor Deedee Corradini.

Here's a glance of some of the possibilities those attending the convention

may want to consider:

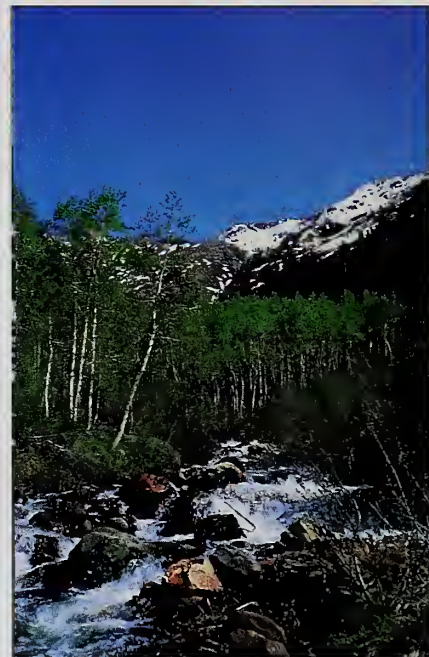
*Museum of Mormon Church History and Art.* Salt Lake City is best known as the headquarters of the 4-million-member Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Historical artifacts and documents from the church's founding in 1820 to present day are housed in this much-visited museum.

*Family History Library.* Want to trace your family roots? The library is the world's largest genealogical facility.

**VISITORS' CHOICE—**The City and County Building, the Twin Peaks wilderness area and the Utah Jazz offer a variety of things to do.

*Temple Square.* The world-renowned Mormon Tabernacle Choir has open rehearsal every Thursday evening and broadcasts live every Sunday morning. Seating to hear the 320-member chorus is on a first-come, first-served basis. The square also includes the six-spired Temple, Tabernacle, gardens and monuments. All tours of the area are free.

*Beehive and Lion houses.* Brigham Young's family residences are on the National Historic Landmark registry and are open for tours. Mormon pio-  
*Please turn to page 52*





# Prostate Problems are a Man's Disease-Right?

# WRONG!

**Prostate problems effect men physically  
but effect men & women emotionally!**  
**100% NATURAL PROSTATE RELIEF GUARANTEED!**

If you suspect that your husband or male friend may be suffering from a prostate problem, then you have to help him. It is in your and his best interest for him to be healthy. Most men wait too long and endure pain too long before seeking help. Prostate problems may ultimately kill them or simply make them impotent for the rest of their lives. But, there is help for prostate problems with the all natural, comprehensive nutritional product - **PROSTAID+PLUS** with *Pygeum Africanum*.



## Do You...

	Yes	No
...get up at night to urinate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...often have sudden urges to urinate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...have a weak urine stream?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...frequently need to urinate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...have the sensation that you have not emptied your bladder completely after urinating?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...stop and start again several times when you urinate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...have to push or strain to begin to urinate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### *Pygeum Africanum*: Therapy for Prostate Relief

In both France and Italy, extract of **Pygeum** is recognized for prostate therapy and is available by prescription. Throughout Europe, **Pygeum** is the preferred method for treating prostate disorders - ranking above surgery.

Younger men are more likely to suffer prostate infections than BPH. **Pygeum** is a natural antibiotic, and is ideal for treating the infection.

Older men who suffer prostate problems should know that in France, 81% of all prescriptions for BPH treatment contain **Pygeum**.

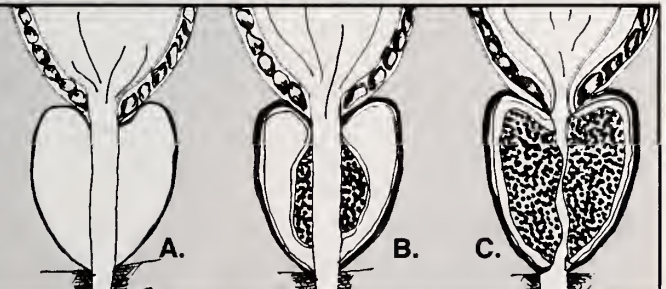
**PROSTAID+PLUS** with *Pygeum Africanum* also contains: Glycine, L-Alanine, L-Glutamic Acid, Raw Prostate Concentrate, Saw Palmetto, Golden Rod, Pumpkin Seed Concentrate, Vitamin E, Zinc and Flaxseed. The daily dosage is 3 tablets.

Thousands of men over the age of 40 are using **PROSTAID+PLUS** to keep their prostates healthy. Early preventative measures aid to promote prostate wellness.

With **PROSTAID+PLUS**, comprehensive prostate nutrition, your prostate receives safe, time tested nourishment. One bottle contains 90 tablets - one month's supply. *It is recommended that you try a two-month supply since your body gradually and naturally needs time to let these ingredients work their way into your system.*

**PROSTAID+PLUS** is the nutritional instrument for men with prostate problems and for those men who want to plan ahead and prevent these problems. It is completely guaranteed. To receive a refund, simply return the unused tablets. A full refund (less P&H) will be sent immediately. To order, simply fill out the coupon and mail it with your payment (check or M.O.) to the address below. All orders are shipped **FIRST CLASS MAIL**. We accept VISA or MasterCard (1-800-770-1155). Sorry, no COD's.

- A. Healthy Prostate - urethra is fully opened allowing normal flow of urine
- B. The darker growth of benign tissue had begun. The urethra is beginning to close
- C. BPH tissue has almost closed the tube urine must pass through



### Zinc Deficiency in Men

The prostate gland normally contains about ten times more zinc than any other organ in the body. Researchers point to the fact that one of the most common symptoms of zinc deficiency is prostate enlargement. Chronic prostatitis, where inflammation of the gland is combined with infection, has been found to respond to treatment with zinc. **PROSTAID PLUS** with *Pygeum Africanum* also contains 5 mg. of zinc. Some doctors have called zinc the "man's vitamin".

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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# AND JUSTICE FOR (NOT QUITE) ALL...

**I**N JANUARY, the Supreme Court denied the Legion's request to be heard in its lawsuit against the federal government.

The Legion sought an explanation for VA's failure to conduct a proper study of Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange and also demanded to know what happened to some \$63 million Congress set aside for the study.

No one is really surprised at the top court's refusal to hear the case. Shirley Ivy met with the same fate when she tried to sue the chemical manufacturers of Agent Orange. The widow of a veteran who died of cancer caused by Agent Orange exposure, Ivy tried to fight back by suing the manufacturers—only to have chemical interests maneuver the hearings out of Texas to Judge Jack Weinstein's New York court, where the case was thrown out. Weinstein was the judge at the original Agent Orange class action suit.

The issue, however, was never one of courts and legal briefs. It was, and remains, one of money. That's why many believe the original class-action suit pressed by veterans in 1984 was never allowed to go to court. Chemical manufacturers, as one legal expert put it, "got off for mere pennies on the dollar" by creating a pool of a few hundred million dollars, and succeeded in blocking any future action against them by veterans or their survivors.

Now that money is all but gone,

and all the assistance that was purported to exist from the settlement account will dry up: No more funds for Betty Mekdici's American Birth Defect registry to track birth defects of veterans' children, or to offer alternate means of help when the government fails to live up to its responsibilities. No more financing for the National Veterans Legal Service Project, which won numerous claims cases for veterans.

There is a particular irony in the timing of all this. The court's decision comes at nearly the same time Congress has decided to cut off funding for the pro bono program that supplied free legal help for veterans appealing their claims to the Court of Veterans Appeals, though the court itself may help finance the program this year from its own budget.

Still, the responsibility for this travesty of justice does not rest with the courts alone. Congress has had ample opportunity to "do the right thing" by Agent Orange veterans over the past two decades. It could have held hearings and demanded an explanation from VA for its lack of a study.

Congress did not form a special commission to hear about how chemical companies pressured the EPA to get rid of someone such as whistleblower Kate Jenkins, when she showed that chemical companies intentionally lied about their own Agent Orange research. Even after she proved her case and was reinstated to

her job, Congress still sat on its hands and did absolutely nothing.

Interestingly enough, Congress had no problem buying out an entire Missouri community after it was contaminated with dioxin. This suggests a serious case of doublethink on Washington's part. Do lawmakers actually believe that although civilians exposed to dioxin are at horrible risk, the substance is somehow good for veterans?

There are more than 58,000 names on the wall of the Vietnam Memorial—men and women who died in service to their country. Perhaps it's time for a second Vietnam Memorial, dedicated to the untold thousands affected by Agent Orange. Perhaps this second memorial could incorporate a statue of distraught parents whose children were born with birth defects. Maybe this would finally give VA the impetus to find enough Vietnam veterans to conduct the study it said could not be done.

Appropriately, the memorial could be dedicated in January, the month that marked the beginning of the Tet offensive; the month the Vietnam peace agreement was signed; and the month the Supreme Court announced it would not hear The American Legion's suit.

And what of the new study? Where is it? Why isn't it done? Will this be yet another layer of whitewash for a memorial to those affected by Agent Orange?

## No Kidding, Part 1

The final report has not yet been released, but preliminary studies done by VA on the death rate of Gulf War veterans shows "a statistically higher rate than their peers who did not serve in the war," according to researchers.

The director of VA's Environmental Epidemiological Service, Dr. Han H. Kang, told the members of the American Public Health Administration that VA attributes the higher death rate to "accidents and other external causes rather than diseases and natural causes."

Catch that? Death is *not* due to disease or *natural* causes.

The question is, what *is* killing Gulf War veterans? We remain hopeful that VA's studies will reveal that answer as well.

## No Kidding, Part II

A December report from the General Accounting Office (GAO) tells us that distance is a factor for veterans using VA facilities.

On the surface, this seems to be one of those self-evident items the late Sen. William Proxmire would have loved.

Still, GAO has compiled some interesting statistics that may be useful in determining some of VA's future health delivery plans.

For instance, some 89 percent of all veterans live more than five miles away from a VA hospital and about 50 percent live more than 25 miles away. GAO found that usage of VA drops significantly the further away a veteran lives, though there is a major difference in percent of usage for veterans with service-connected conditions and those eligible non-service connected treatment. □



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## Zooms Roof High the First Year!



**WE SHIP  
PLANTS, NOT  
SEEDS.**

## Makes a Magnificent Fence



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Imagine being able to get great reception without having to pay those annoying monthly cable charges. Simply plug our TV Antenna Booster into any outlet. It's that easy! This compact, unique design measures only 2 5/8" x 3 1/2". Complete kit comes with 75 to 300 ohm adapter and a 6 foot coaxial cable plus easy-to-follow instructions. Takes just minutes to install for great reception.

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**REMEMBER IT'S YOURS FOREVER!**



# MEDIA BANK CATERS TO VETERAN'S VIEW

**F**OR ALBERT Fickel, Dec. 8, 1941, was going to be a good time, his 21st birthday. On Dec. 7, 1941, Fickel had just finished standing the 4-to-8 a.m. watch aboard the *USS Pennsylvania (BB-38)* and was set to embark for three days of kicks in Honolulu when Japanese bombs put an end to his plans.

To this day, he says you can see little drops of oil on

the water where the *USS Arizona* and 1,177 sailors, 80 percent of her crew, died. The *Pennsylvania* was on keel blocks in drydock and sustained severe damage, but lived to fight again on the high seas.

Fickel, a member of Post 39 in Thrall, Texas, was one of 3,000 Legionnaires who agreed to be interviewed and were listed in the World War II Media Data Bank. Legionnaires willing to offer the media a veteran's per-

spective can make themselves available to media representatives through the data bank.

The data bank was renamed the Veterans Media Data Bank and made a permanent fixture of the National Public Relations Division following its success in connection with World War II commemorative events the past five years.

"Now, veterans of all eras can have an opportunity

to share their experiences with the public," says Robert L. Morrill, chairman of the National Public Relations Commission.

To participate, veterans must fill out a questionnaire and return it to National Headquarters.

There is no guarantee a member of the media will contact a particular veteran, but those willing to be interviewed offer the media the chance to talk to someone who has "been there," and gives the Legionnaire an opportunity to promote the organization, says Morrill.

The form, most recently published in the Nov. 9, 1995 *Dispatch*, asks veterans for basic information about their service, units and duty assignments, campaigns and highlights of service.

The information will be entered in a computer database for immediate referral to journalists seeking veterans to interview for news or feature stories.

For more information, or to receive a form, contact the National Public Relations Division, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. □

## POLICE PROUD TO WEAR SERVICE RIBBONS

**T**HE military and law enforcement have a special relationship, one which The American Legion has long acknowledged and nurtured.

One California community's city council recently voted to honor the ties linking veterans and law en-

forcement officials by allowing its city cops to wear their service ribbons on their police uniforms.

Veterans dominate the top ranks of the El Monte, Calif., law enforcement community, says Fred Love, a member of El Monte Post 261, who approached the city council with the idea.

Love is a researcher/care-

taker with the El Monte Historical Museum, which recently unveiled a bronze memorial plaque in tribute to all El Monte veterans who died in wars from World War I to the present. He applauded the city council's action allowing city police officers to wear their service insignia as a tribute to El Monte veterans, and urged other Legion Posts to contact their local law enforcement agencies as well.

"Those of us who came back share an obligation of gratitude to those who gave up all they had for the freedoms we enjoy today," says Love, a Legionnaire for 42 years.

"In our community, we try to show that The American Legion is a presence in the community through the Post, and through our work with schools, churches and law enforcement officials," he said.

Love added that World War I veterans started Post 261 in 1920, with the Post charter dating to Oct. 27, 1924. □



**STANDING INSPECTION**—El Monte, Calif., law enforcement officials wearing their service ribbons include, from left, Officer Eduardo Nafarrate, a Gulf War Army veteran; Deputy City Attorney Marvin J. Cichy, Marines; Asst. Chief Bill Ankeny, Army; Police Chief Wayne C. Clayton, Navy; and Legionnaire Fred Love of Post 261, El Monte.

## BUICK PROMO ENDS MARCH 31

**A**NY program that saves money for American Legion family members and also benefits American Legion Baseball and other youth programs is bound to be a hit. In the latest cam-



# PR Seeks Vets on Video



**LEGIONNAIRES** with camcorders can help their Posts gain national attention during this year's American Legion National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, according to National Public Relations Chairman Robert L. Morrill.

As part of the opening ceremony, Morrill and his National Public Relations staff plan to include video clips of Legionnaires involved in community service. The more diverse or unusual the activity, the better, says Morrill, but some prospects for coverage might include community clean-up efforts, blood drives, school programs with an active Legion news angle, or volunteer efforts at the local VA facility.

Post officers should send their VHS tapes no later than June 30, 1996, to: Public Relations Division, ATTN: Convention Video Project, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Each tape must clearly be marked on the box and include the tape label with the Post's name, number


and location, and the contact person's name and phone number. Tapes can't be returned, but Posts providing clips used in the production will receive a copy of the finished videotape.

"Legionnaires are making a difference in their communities every day. As we focus on The American Legion's theme, 'Still Serv-

ing America,' videotapes depicting Legion members in action can show this service in a special way," says Morrill.

For further information, contact Lee Harris at the National Public Relations Division in Indianapolis, (317) 630-1253. His e-mail address is: [lharris@lquest.net](mailto:lharris@lquest.net). □

## ROTC RESCUE



**Members of Upper Cumberland Post 135, Cookeville, Tenn., learned the ROTC scholarship program at Tennessee Technological University was threatened by lack of funding, so last August they conducted a gun and knife show and raised \$3,000 to help out. From the left are Joe Miller, Post finance officer; ROTC Cadet David Johnston, the first scholarship recipient; and Legionnaires John Williams and Virgil Benson. The gun and knife show fundraiser now is a permanent Post project, says Miller.**

paign of the Buick-American Legion Baseball program, any Legionnaire, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion member who buys a 1996 Buick or 1997 Buick LeSabre before March 31, 1996, can save \$500 off the purchase price. Those savings are in addition to any other cash-off incentives available to buy-

ers, according to Buick.

For the Legion's baseball backers, the really sweet part of the deal comes in knowing that for every car sold, Buick will donate \$100 to the purchaser's Post.

Begun in 1994, the program to date has generated an estimated \$2.3 million for American Legion Base-

ball and youth programs. A discount certificate appears in this issue of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE.

Extra discount certificates have also been mailed to every Post to spread the word about this unique partnership.

For the location of the Buick dealer nearest you, call 800-4A-BUICK. □

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICAN LEGION

**T**HIS month, March 15-17, our American Legion celebrates its 77th birthday as the world's largest veterans organization.

To honor its more than seven decades of service to God and Country, a brief list of great accomplishments appears below:

**1920s:** Started American Legion Baseball, and found 500,000 jobs for veterans.

**1930s:** Led the drive to create VA.

**1940s:** Helped pass the GI Bill.

**1950s:** Created The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

**1960s:** Saved 15 VA domiciliaries and regional offices.

**1970s:** Preserved Veterans Preference.

**1980s:** Saved VA's Vet Centers.

**1990s:** Developed a plan to protect GIs in future wars and improve the handling of the POW/MIA issue. □

## LEGIONNAIRES IN ACTION

**P**OST 462 in Soldier, Iowa, takes understandable pride in its local veterans.

One of them is Legionnaire Doug Waples, 48, who walks with a cane from an old Vietnam War injury but doesn't slow down for anybody. Waples runs a growing lumber business in Soldier, and his willingness to invest in the community and its people prompted the VA to honor him with an award given to veterans with disabilities who exhibit "excellence in the workplace." □



## THE VETERANS' CONNECTION

VETS® is a service that provides information about military reunions, helps veterans find old buddies and arranges reunions, travel and accommodations.

### REUNIONS INFORMATION

This month there are 996 military reunions listed on these pages. In addition, VETS® has information on more than 12,000 other reunions. Call weekdays, 12 noon to 8 p.m., CDT. Calls cost \$1.95 per minute. The average call takes three minutes.

1 (900) 737-VETS

1 (900) 737-8387

If you know the VETS® five-digit number assigned to your ship or unit, please give it to the operator. The number is printed after each outfit's name listed in the magazine. If you don't know the number or do not see your ship or unit listed in the magazine, VETS® operators may still be able to provide you reunion information. Units are enrolling in VETS® daily.

### PLANNING A REUNION

VETS® will help you arrange your outfit's reunion at no cost and save money in the process. Finders/Seekers® services are included free for VETS® managed reunions. VETS® also will maintain reunion coordinators' mailing lists and unit archives, and handle all reunion publicity needs. Tell us what you want, and we will do the work.

### REUNION PLANNING & TRAVEL

Call **VETSTRAVEL**. You'll get the lowest possible hotel, banquet, tour and travel rates.

1 (800) 844-VETS

1 (800) 844-8387

### FINDING A BUDDY

Looking for a buddy or long lost relative? Finders/Seekers® service will send you a computer listing of names, addresses and phone numbers of people in the United States who have the same name as the person you're seeking. Finders/Seekers® guarantees you will get at least one name that matches, or it will refund your money. Search fees are \$15 per name. Allow six weeks for a reply.

Write Finders/Seekers®, P.O. Box 901, Columbia, MO 65205-0901; or call (800) 449-VETS. Mastercard/VISA accepted.

## OUTFIT REUNIONS

Reunion coordinators can enroll their units in VETS® by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to VETS®, P.O. Box 901, Columbia, MO 65205-0901. Unit names are published one time per year.

### Army

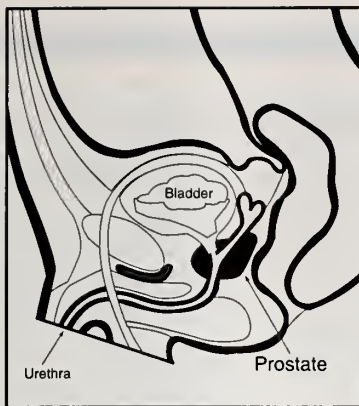
1st Arm'd Div, 752nd Tank Bn. (Africa, '42/45) #19579  
1st Cav, 7th Rgt, 5th Bn (VN 66-71) #18761  
1st Cav Div, 12th Cav. Rgt. #19649  
1st Cav Div, 61st FA Bn #23105  
1st Cav Div (LRRP Ranger Chapt.) #20823  
1st Inf Div, 16th Rgt, 2nd Bn, D Co (67/68) #13688  
1st Inf Div, 16th Rgt, 3rd Bn (Roosevelt Barracks, 1947-53) #19167  
1st Inf. Div. Officers, "Big Red One" (WWII/WWII/VN/Persian Gulf) #15695  
1st Radio Research Avn. Co., "Crazy Cat" (1967/68) #13968  
2nd Arm'd Div., 17th Engr. Bn., A Co. (WWII) #16341

2nd Arm'd Div, 17th Engr Bn, C Co #19805  
2nd Arm'd Div, 82nd Arm'd Recon Bn #15271  
2nd Arm'd Div., 82nd Recon. Bn., A Co., "Hell on Wheels" #19096  
2nd Inf. Div., 23rd Rgt., AT & M Pltn., Hq Co. (Korea) #18918  
3rd Army, 128th AAA Gun Bn. (WWII) #16612  
3rd FA Observ. Bn. #15506  
3rd FA Rgt, 2nd Bn, A Btry (Butzbach, Ger) #13235  
3rd Inf Div, 39th FA Bn #22002  
3rd Inf. Div., 7th Rgt. Assn. "Cotton-balers" #16139  
3rd Sig Co (WWII) #15227  
4th Inf Div, 12th Rgt, 1st Bn #19550  
4th Inf. Div., 1st Bde., 4th Bn., C Co., 3rd Pltn. #19799  
4th Trans Cmd, 396th QM Bn Port (Incl Cos 3-5/692 pre-1942) #17625  
5th AAA AW MBL (US/Ger.) #14103  
5th Arm'd Div. Assn. (WWII) #15428  
5th Army Assn (WWII) #13073  
5th Inf Div, 10th Rgt, A Co #16319  
5th Inf Div, 10th Rgt, B Co (40/45) #11691

5th Inf. Div., 11th Rgt., 1st Bn., D Co. (VN, '68/69) #19346  
5th Ord MM Co (Japan, 46-48) #22051  
5th RCT Assn (Korea) #20928  
6th Inf Div, 63rd Rgt, Co H #22440  
6th Inf Div, 6th QM Co #19142  
6th Inf Div, McNair Bks (Berlin, Ger) #22410  
6th QM Trng Rgt (Camp Lee, 41) #14193  
7th Army, 12th Chem. Maint. Co. (Baumholder, Ger. '52/54) #14910  
7th Base Post Office (WWII, Korea-Present) #11414  
7th Inf Div, 31st Rgt, G Co #19159  
7th Inf Div, 57th FA Bn #15765  
8th Army, 2nd Logist Comm/31st & 552nd MP Escort Guard (Korea 52-53) #22445  
8th Army, 8178th TAMM (Korea) #22448  
8th Inf Div, 12th Engr(C) Bn (WWII) #12196  
8th Inf. Div., 708th Ord. Co. (WWII) #15800  
9th Arm'd Div., 89th Recon., E Trp. #20320  
9th Inf. Div., 2nd-39th (VN) #21549  
9th Inf Div, 47th Rgt, 4th Bn, Mobile Riverine (VN 1969/70) #13758  
9th Inf Div, 47th Rgt (Fl.Riley, 1966, VN 1966-69) #21393  
9th Inf Div, Mobile Riverine Force Assn (VN) #22977  
10th Arty, 6th Bn (Ger, 63-66) #19421  
10th Inf. Div., 87th Rgt., H Co. #20925  
10th Mountain Div, 604th FA Bn (PK) (WWII) #13969  
10th Mountain Div., 605th FA Bn., A Btry. (PK) #12374  
11th A/B Div., 503rd Inf. Rgt., A Co. (1953) #12565  
11th Evac. Hospital #20530  
12th Arm'd Div. Assn. (N. Central Chapt.) #16476  
14th Field Hospital #16440  
14th QM Bn., 520th QM Petroleum Supply Co. (1951/52) #20078  
16TH Cav Grp, 16TH/19TH Cav Sqs #10863  
16th Sig Op Bn (WWII/51-53) #22006  
17th Weather Sq., APO 502 (WWII) #14255  
18th Arty, 3rd (How) Bn, C Btry (60/63) #20835  
18th FA Bn. (Korea, '50/53) #11516  
18th OCS, Class 38 (The Infantry School) #19949  
20th Field Hospital #19888  
21st General Hospital #16666  
22nd Support Command (Desert Shield/DS) #19936  
23rd Inf "Americal" Div (WWII/Korea/VN) #15926  
24th Constabulary Sq., D Trp. #20268  
24th Inf, 19th Rgt, 3rd Bn/34th Rgt, 1st Bn (Korea) #11154  
24th Inf. Div., 11th FA Bn., All Btrys. (Korea) #21013  
24th Inf Div, 21st Rgt, L Co (Korea, 50/51) #12001  
24th Inf. Div., 26th AAA Bn., D Btry. (Korea, '52/54) #11470  
25th Inf Div, 27th Rgt (Korea, 50-53) #19090  
25th Inf Div, 35th Rgt, L Co/29th Rgt, C Co (Korea) #10864  
26th Inf Div, 104th Rgt Assn #11637  
30th Arty, 1st Bn (VN, 65-71) #19420  
30th Inf. Div. Assn. #19319  
30th Med Depot Co #20519  
30th Ord HM Co (Korea, All Years) #11226  
31st Inf Div, 198th Tank Bn (Korea) #19810  
31st Ord. Co. (WWII) #19996  
31st Trans Bn, B Co (Munich, '58/62) #20434  
32nd Inf Div, Great Western Red Arrow Club #20527  
32nd Inf Div, Red Arrow Club (FL Chap) #21786  
33rd Arm'd Rgt, 2nd (H) Tank Bn, A Co (Aschaffenburg, Ger, WWII) #18814  
34th Inf Div, 168th Rgt #15842  
35th Arm'd Bn (Sullivan Bks, 1958-Acti-uation) #22431  
40th Div, 108th Inf Rgt, K Co (WWII) #13940  
40th Inf Div, 223rd Rgt, M Co (Korea) #11191  
40th Inf Div, 40th MP Co (Korea) #19688  
40th Inf. Div., 578th Engr. (C) Bn, Co B (Korea) #15575  
43rd Inf Div, 169th Rgt, G Co (50-53) #14095  
44th/55th AAA Bde. (1953/55) #20748  
44th Inf. Div., 114th Rgt. #16113  
44th Inf Div, 217th FA Bn #10483  
45th Inf Div, 179th Rgt, G Co (Korea) #22780  
45th Inf Div, 189th FA (Korea/WWII) #15493  
45th Inf Div, 645th TD Bn (WWII) #15558  
47th Engrs, 1st Bn, Reorg.as 1397th Engrs. (All Years) #20217  
47th Inf, 204th Med Bn, Co C (1951-53) #22408  
51st A/B Inf., LRP/LRSU, F Co. (VN/Gulf/ Ft. Bragg) #16340  
51st Field Hosp., 2nd Unit (Coburg, Ger. '44/45) #19507  
51st Pioneer Inf. Rgt. (WWI) #20057  
52nd Combat Avn. Bn. Camp Holloway Assn. #11292  
54th Sig. Bn. (Incl. Atch. Units, WWII) #10318  
55th General Hospital #15439  
56th Air Defense Arty, 2nd Bn, D Btry (Zweibrücken, Ger, 1973-77) #22442  
56th Sig Bn Assn #16733  
57th Engr. Combat Bn., B Co. #19511  
59th Field Hosp. (Europe, WWII) #19625  
62nd Sig Bn, B Co #22198  
65th Army Band (1950-1952) #21488  
65th Field Hospital #21857  
65th Inf. Div., 265th Engr., C Co. #21204  
68th QM Refrig. Co. (WWII) #15418  
70th Avn. Det. (Thailand, 1969) #19866  
70th Inf. Div., 270th Engr. Bn., A/B/C Cos. #10508  
71st Inf. Div., 5th Rgt., 20th Bn., A Co. (TDRTC, Ft. Meade MD '43/44) #11283  
75th CA (AA) Rgt., F Btry. (1940/44) #22605  
76th Engr. Const. Bn. (Korea, 1950/53) #23016  
78th AAA Gun Bn., All Btry's (WWII/Korea) #12952  
78th Inf. Div. "Texas Cohorts" #19880  
82nd A/B Div., 376th Parachute FA Assn. #16058  
82nd A/B Div. Assn. (Golden Brig. Chapt.) #10695  
84th & 62nd Engr. Const. Bn. (Korea, 1950-53) #14727  
85th Inf Div, 339th Rgt, K Co (WWII) #19862  
86th Chem. Mortar Bn. Assn. #16089  
87th Chem Mortar Bn Assn #18925  
88th A/B Div., 325th Glider Inf. Rgt. #20149  
88th Inf Div Assn "Blue Devils" #15465  
88th Inf. Div., "Blue Devils" (SE Chapt.) #20427  
91st Cav. Recon. Sq. (Fl. Bliss, '41/46) #16177  
91st MP Bn, 289/560th MP Cos (Korea, 92/94) #19644  
93rd AA Bn, B Btry #15259  
93rd Arm'd FA Bn Assn #15616  
94th QM Baking Bn, A/B Cos (41-45) #16432  
95th (2771st) Engr. Repro. Co, 29th TOPO Engr. Bn. (Manila, PI '46/47) #22719  
95th Med Gas Treat Bn #10472  
97th Inf Div, 303rd/365th/389th/922nd FA Bn (WWI, WWII) #16119  
97th Inf. Div., 303rd Rgt., 1st Bn., Hq Co. (WWII) #10285  
97th Inf Div, 303rd Rgt, Anti-Tank Co (WWII) #16321  
97th Inf Div, 365th FA Bn #15631  
98th Inf Div (WWII) #15901  
100th Inf Div (FL Chapter) #15483  
101st A/B, 501st Bn, 2nd Bde, A Co (VN 70/71) #16326  
101st A/B Div., 377th Parachute FA Bn., C Btry. #20216  
101st A/B Div (VN) #19331  
102nd ASA/853rd Comm Recon/17th ASA Det #22400  
102nd Engr(CS) Co (VN) #11952  
103rd Inf Div, 411th Rgt, L Co #20789  
104th Engr. Combat Bn. (WWII) #16576  
104th Inf Div, Atlantic Timberwolf Assn (WWII) #22779  
105th Station Hospital (WWII) #22954  
108th Arty. Grp., 26th Arty., C/F Btry. (Dong Ha, VN) #11224  
109th Transp. Bn., HQ/HQ Co. (Toul & Etain, France, 1950-54) #21905  
111th Inf. Rgt. (WWII) #11334  
114th Sig Serv Co/331st Comm Recon Co (1949-52) #22443  
115th Station Hospital #20661

Please turn page





# EUROPEAN DOCTORS PROVE THAT MANY Prostate Disorders Can Be Corrected Or Prevented

Recently actor Bill Bixby and musician Frank Zappa died of prostate cancer. They were only in their fifties! Doctors say that

most men over 60 have some degree of prostate disorder—and it is not unusual for men in their forties and fifties to have minor prostate problems.

## Have To Get Up At Night?

Do you have to get up at night to urinate, feel urgency, delay or dribbling at other times? Well, these are the first signs of a prostate disorder. Do you feel pain or discomfort when urinating? If so, the disease may have advanced!

## May Cause Impotence!

Until just a few years ago, surgery was the only choice for prostate disease, but it was a horrible one! A sizable percentage of men became impotent as a result, and at best the surgery only postponed the problem for a few years.

The highly touted prescription drug currently available has had limited success. The common side effect is sexual dysfunction—not a welcome alternative.

## A Better Solution!

An amazing medical breakthrough has been made in Europe that promises to put an end to many prostate disorders. 38 of Europe's most prominent medical scientists conducted double-blind studies in France, Germany, Switzerland and Italy at 13 hospitals.

The doctors tested an extract from the bark of an African tree on over 600 patients who had various stages of prostate malfunctions.

## High Success Rate!

A high percentage of the participants receiving the extract were relieved and astoundingly no side effects were detected. Most men were able to regain their normal sexual functions in a short time.

After the distinctly positive results were published in several leading medical journals, American urologists and medical scientists tested the substance on numerous patients with prostate disorders here in the United States. Their results concurred with those of the European doctors.

**ATTENTION, DOCTORS:** The research data that substantiates the effects of this formula is available to all licensed medical professionals. Just send the request on your letterhead. It will be sent to you by return mail at no charge.

*Sidney L. Snow, M.D., a Urologist, says, "An astonishing 80% of men will eventually get a prostate disorder. Prevention is the key. For many patients I see in my practice, the Serenoa contained in Pymoxin has led to significant improvements in nocturnal frequency, urgency, and even to some extent, potency functions."*



## No Prescription Necessary!

The fact that this powerful extract produces no side effects is remarkable especially in light of the fact that all surgical techniques and current drugs do. This substance does not require a prescription, is inexpensive and is now available in the United States.

## Prevention Is Possible!

Up until the 1950's, the percentage of men afflicted with prostate problems was nearly 50% less than it is in the 1990's.

Scientists believe that one cause is the lack of particular mineral which we normally get from several vegetables. The prostate needs 10 times more of this mineral than any other organ in the body.

The problem is that vegetables today have very low levels of that mineral because chemical fertilizers do not replace it in the soil. Prior to the 1950's, organic fertilizers were more commonly used which replaced the mineral keeping prostate disorders at bay for greater numbers of men.

In Japan, where farmers refuse to use chemical fertilizers, men have 85% less

prostate problems than men in the U.S.

Many scientists have proven in rigid double-blind clinical tests that supplementing your diet with that mineral and the bark extract mentioned earlier can reverse many prostate problems and prevent the progression of others.

An American company is now making this new European formula called Pymoxin. Every man over 40 should be taking it daily to help prevent this awful disease. Those who are already suffering should act immediately.

## Try Pymoxin FREE for 21 Days

And you'll save 25% to 55% for a limited time on this introductory offer. If you are not pleased, just return the unused portion within 30 days for a full refund. A 30-day supply is regularly \$39.95, now \$29.95; 60-day supply, reg. \$69.95, now \$49.95; 120-day supply, reg. \$129.95, now \$89.95; and 180-day supply, reg. \$149.95, now \$109.95.

Call toll-free anytime, 1-800-406-1307, ask for Ext. SG127, or mail your order to: S & G Labs, 892 E. William Street, Dept. SG127, Carson City, NV 89701. Add \$4.00 for shipping and handling.



121st QM Depot #14075  
135th/1265th Combat Engrs. (WWII) #16352  
150th Engr(C) Bn Assn (WWII) #16131  
153rd/511th Port Co. (Enwetok, Korea) #20300  
157th Engr (C) Bn (WWII) #15588  
161st FA, 2nd Bn., Hq Btry. / 209th FA Bn., Hq Btry. #15891  
163rd General Hospital (WWII) #14209  
167th General Hospital #20124  
168th/983rd FA Bn's (WWII) #14766  
170th Engr. Combat Bn., A/B/C/Hq Co's (WWII) #16515  
173rd A/B Bde(SEP) (Incl Attach Aus/NZ) #15267  
178th QM Co (Afr/Ital/Fr/Ger, WWII) #14296  
181st Hvy. Pontoon Engr. (WWII) #11438  
181st QM Depot Co Supply #16437  
186th General Hospital (Fairford Eng., WWII) #12488  
190th FA Grp Assn (Incl 190-200th FA Bns, WWII) #16281  
199th Light Inf. Bde. Assn., "Redcatcher" (Cambodia/VN) #15322  
202nd Engr (C) Bn, C Co(WWII) #16187  
202nd Engr (C) Bn, Co B #22414  
203rd Engr (C) Bn, A Co #14108  
208th Engr (C) Bn (WWII) #15561  
216th AAA Gun Bn #16542  
216th CA AA Rgt. / 259th Army Ground Forces Band (WWII) #16227  
235th FA Observ Bn (Korea) #15808  
250th FA Bn. (WWII) #21659  
250th General Hosp. #19546  
281st Engr. (C) Bn. Assn. (WWII,ETO) #15218  
281st MP Co, 702nd MP Bn, Co A (1942-45) #19867  
287th Sig Co (46-Present) #21301  
288th FA Observ Bn #15710  
297th Engr (C) Bn. #22803  
300th Engr. Combat Bn. #16152  
304th Sig. Oper. Bn. (All Years) #19854  
304th Sig Oper Bn (WWII) #21870  
334th Ord. Depot Co. #10524  
344th Engr. Rgt., H & S Co (WWII) #20261  
346th Engrs. (WWII) #16092  
350th Inf. Rgt., Hvy. Mortar Co. (Austria, '49/52) #19410  
351st Searchlight Bn #16129  
356th AAA Searchlight Bn (WWII) #15422  
362nd AAA S/L Bn., 531st MP Bn., 799th MP Co. (WWII) #20765  
398th Engr. Bn. (All Cos.) #22955  
400th AFA Bn. (ETO) #15475  
404th Sig. Co. #20563  
405th MPEG Co (Camp Breckenridge, KY 43/44) #22434  
406th Engr. Const. Bn., A Co. #14137  
406th Evac. Hospital ("30th Evac. Hosp.", WWII) #10714  
413th/523rd Ord Co's #15826  
421st ASF Band, "Charles Banner's Grp." #19882  
443rd AAA AW Bn. #21778  
445th AAA AW Bn. Vets Assn. (WWII) #15279  
448th AAA AW Bn. (WWII) #16631  
456th AAA AW Bn (WWII) #21663  
478th AAA AW Bn, C Btry #15550  
480th AAA AW Bn. (WWII) #16162  
483rd AAA AW Bn. #15771  
492nd Port Bn., Co.'s 230-233 (Guadalcanal, Cebu City, PI) WWII #10313  
501st Med. Collecting Corps, 62nd Bn., B Co. #10803  
503rd Engr.(LE) Co. (Berlin Airlift) #13526  
503rd PRCT/RCT (SW Chap,WWII) #20730  
509th Parachute Inf. Assn. #15297  
513th Parachute RCT #20178  
516th Sig Corps (Austria, 44-55) #15421  
522nd Ord. HMFA Co. #16590  
526th Arm'd Inf. Bn. (WWII) #11216  
531st Ord HMTK Co #19638  
533rd EB & SR, Co A & Hq Bn #16356  
534th EB & SR Bn, 4th Bde (Aus/Pac/Jap '43/46) #19890  
542nd Ord HM FA #22426  
542nd Parachute Inf. Assn. #21666  
545th FA Bn, B Btry #19909  
548th AAA AW Bn (WWII) #20778  
555th FA Bn (Korea/Hawaii 1949-54) #22075  
557th AAA AW Bn. #16588  
561st FA Bn. (WWII) #18587  
587th AAA AW Bn. #11000  
568th AAA AW Bn. #15844  
573rd Pers Co (Ft Bragg) #15783

579th AAA AW Bn #19984  
579th Sig Air Warn Bn (New Caledonia 1942/44) #14124  
588th Sig Depot Co #22436  
604th Engr Camo Bn (WWII) #10444  
605th TD Bn. Assn. (WWII) #10118  
613th Engr. L.E. Co. (WWII) #15825  
618th Sig Bn #19622  
625th Engr., L.E. Co. (WWII) #11060  
628th TD Bn. (ETO, WWII) #15209  
630th TD Bn. #16266  
632nd TD Bn., A Co. #16088  
635th TD Bn. #21873  
637th TD Bn., C Co. #20171  
648th TD Bn. #10901  
653rd Topo Engr Bn #19357  
673rd FA Bn., Serv. Btry. (1944) #11417  
676th Engr. (LE) Co. #19891  
711th Tank Bn., Hq Co. (WWII) #19975  
726th MP Bn. (WWII) #15260  
728th R.O.B. (WWII) #15693  
732nd ROB Assn (WWII) #15638  
734th FA Bn. #19946  
735th R.O.B., C Co. #15649  
738th MP Bn, A Co #19227  
744th R.O.B. #16475  
746th Tank Bn. (WWII) #15836  
748th R.O.B. (India, WWII) #16062  
749th R.O.B.(WWII) #16246  
750th Tank Bn., B Co. (WWII) #13384  
753rd FA Bn, All Btrys (WWII) #17998  
772nd MP Bn, "77 Deuce" (Korea, 53/55) #19911  
772nd TD Bn. #10283  
773rd TD Bn Assn. #15680  
776th AAA AW Bn, B Btry #12162  
777th Tank Bn #15863  
779th AAA Bn., Hq/A/B/C/D Cos. #16522  
782nd Tank Bn (ETO WWII) #15212  
808th Engr Avn Bn (Okinawa, 1954/55) #14956  
809th TD Bn. (WWII) #15560  
819th TD Bn (WWII) #15629  
823rd TD Bn Assn #12308  
825th TD Bn (WWII) #11093  
839th Engr. Avn. Bn., Hq & Hq Co., SCARWAF (All Years) #14083  
841st Engr. Avn. Bn. (WWII & Korea) #21784  
843rd Sig. Serv. Bn., Sig. Corps #13218  
853rd Engr Bn (CBI WWII) #16656  
862nd Engr. Avn. Bn. #19406  
865th AAA AW Bn.(SP) (WWII/Korea) #16239  
865th Engr. Avn. Bn. #16603  
899th TD Bn. #19948  
936th Ord. (H) Automotive Co. (WWII) #19881  
947th Engr Avn Bn, NE Air Comm (Korea) #19489  
1282nd Engr (C) Bn (WWII) #22449  
1478th Engr Maint Co #19477  
1491th Engr Maint Co #19768  
3137th Sig. Motor Messenger Co. (WWII, ETO) #12731  
3197th Sig Serv Co (Rome 44/47) #19845  
3424th Ord. Co. (WWII) #20161  
3816th QM (GS) Co #22427  
1/9/104th Inf Div,3rd Arm'd Div,12th Volksgrenadier,47th Vg(Ger WWII) #19945  
506/507th QM Bn (PI) #10754  
52/100/117/298th Gen Hospitals (Frenchay Hosp, Eng) #11199  
ASA: 3rd/8th RRU (VN) #14092  
ASA: 8605th AAU (1950/56) #13836  
ASA: Far East (ASAPAC), Camp Oji (1953-1958) #22429  
ASTP/BTC, 5th Rgt., 2nd Co. (Ft.Benning, '44) #11422  
Camp Fannin Assn (WWII) #10798  
CBI War Dog Det (WWII) #16573  
Chosin Few (Army Chapt.) #16532  
Christmas Island Task Forces, APO 915 (WWII) #14148  
Dusters, Quads & Searchlight Units (Delta to DMZ) #20753  
Firebase Maryann C-1/46 Inf. #21569  
I Corps, Arty, Hq Btry #19807  
Jolly Green Assn #13704  
NY Sig. Corps Trng. School (Paul Smith, NY) #19675  
OH-58A NETT (VN 69-70) #14528  
Retired Army Nurse Corps Assn. #16624  
Retired Military Police Assn. #16007  
Schwaebisch Gmuend (Germany 1957/65) #22392  
Special Forces Assn. #13390  
Sugamo Prison Reu Assn (Tokyo) #21680  
Team 162, Vietnamese A/B Div. Advisors #15452  
Trans Cmmds: 4/5/124/125 (VN) #19066

Trans Grps: 8/48/500/507(VN) #19065  
Yokohama Engr. Depot 8056 AU (Sagami, Japan) #16112

## Navy

1st Beach Bn. #13482  
4th NCB Spec #22903  
4th NCB (WWII) #17402  
9th NCB (WWII) #18568  
13th Fighting Sq. (WWII) #20292  
35th NCB Spec. #19226  
41st Inf. Div., 186th Rgt., E Co. #12452  
62nd NCB (WWII) #18462  
72nd NCB (WWII) #11362  
76th NCB (WWII) #10718  
78th NCB #20325  
111th NCB (1943-45) #11055  
114th NCB (WWII) #21077  
117th NCB #12654  
19th NCB (WWII) #28275  
129th NCB (WWII) #13302  
136th NCB Assn #18432  
301st NCB & USS City of Daltah 1X-156 #19160  
ACORN-13 (All Units/Years) #19679  
ACORN-7/8/15/25 (WWII) #21082  
Adak/Amchitka/Attu/Dutch Harbor/Kodiak Radio Receivers (43/46) #21083  
AFDM-8 (Floating Drydock, Guam) #19870  
Armed Guard: SS Tulane Victory #19977  
Avn. Ordnancemen Assn.(Incl. Marines) #22617  
Base Hospital 15 (Navy 3205, Manus Island '44/46) #17605  
Base Hospital #17 (All Units, Hollandia, New Guinea) #14264  
Bedford Springs Radio School, Co 13 (1944) #17833  
CASU-16/17/44 (Tarawa & Tinian 1944-45) #11767  
CASU-31 (NAS Hilo, HI WWII) #14517  
CBMU-539 (WWII) #18556  
CBMU-592 (Eniwetok, WWII) #23060  
CBMU-599 (WWII) #17871  
Cruiser Sailors Assn. (All Years) #11576  
CUB-10, NOB-3115 (Hollandia, New Guinea WWII) #18673  
DESIV 59-60: USS Dupont/Bernadou/ Ellis/Cole/Dallas (WWII) #18358  
Destroyer Mine Force (WWII) #19855  
Explosive Ord. Disposal Assn. (WWII) #18678  
Fleet Air Recon (VQ) Assn #19432  
Fleet Air Wing 7 (Dunkeswell, Eng. WWII) #13437  
Fleet Hospitals #5 & #105 (Mobile, AL/Neumea, New Caledonia) #19541  
Flying Midshipmen Assn. (1946/50) #17513  
FMF Grunt Corpsmen Assn. #22545  
Four Stacker APD Vets #19953  
Great Lakes Naval Assn. #22444  
HAL-3 Seawolves Assn. (Incl. VN Seals) #18412  
HCU-1 (Harbor Clearance Unit 1, VN) #14608  
Helicopter Reunion VX-3, HU-1, HU-2 (Incl. All Descendant Sq's) #18572  
Inshore Undersea Warfare Grp "IUWG" (VN) #21574  
Intelligence Processing Systems Training Facility #22418  
LCF-27 Fire Support Grp #14530  
LCI (G) 439 #17354  
LCI (L) 1-5,8-16,32,33,35,75,193,209,211-219,229,231,232,238 #11232  
LCI Nat'l Assn #21615  
LCI (R)1077 #19387  
LCI (R) 31/34 #11072  
LCS (L) 1-130 Nat Assn #30084  
LCT-34 Flotilla (Okinawa, '45/47) #19531  
LCT Flotillas (ETO/PTO WWII) #19430  
LSC (L) 102 #13678  
LSM-110 (Korea) #12010  
LSM (R) 525 (St. Francis River) #13510  
LST-1076 (USS Page County, VN) #14644  
LST-1077 (USS Park County, VN) #14774  
LST-1130 #21320  
LST-1148 (USS Sumner Co., VN) #19067  
LST-1158 (USS Tloga County, VN) #14907  
LST-1159 (USS Tom Green County, VN) #11708  
LST-1161 (USS Vernon County, VN) #14864  
LST-1167 (USS Westchester County, VN) #11848  
LST-1168 (USS Wexford Co., VN) #17600  
LST-1169 (USS Whitfield County, VN) #14775  
LST-1170 (USS Windham County, VN) #14784  
LST-241 (WWII) #17304  
LST-309/539 #11375  
LST-339 #11194  
LST-376 #21826  
LST-398 (Flot 5, S. Pacific, WWII) #18173  
LST-496 #18488  
LST-510 #11498  
LST-559 (So Pac, WWII) #28445  
LST-5 (WWII) #11157  
LST-601 (USS Clark County, VN) #13727  
LST-610 #17481  
LST-622 #22428  
LST-691 #21575  
LST-762 (USS Floyd County, VN) #14908  
LST-772 (WWII) #19908  
LST-786 (USS Garrett Co, VN) #11597  
LST-803 #17322  
LST-821 (USS Harnett County, VN) #14556  
LST-838 (USS Hunterdon County, VN) #21135  
LST-839 (USS Iredell County, VN) #14636  
LST-846 (USS Jennings County, VN) #12763  
LST-851 (WWII) #18566  
LST-854 (USS Kemper County, VN) #30146  
LST-902 (Korea) #19642  
LST-902 (USS Luzerne County, VN) #14708  
LST-909 #19225  
LST-912 (USS Mahanomenen Co, VN) #20436  
LST-918 #21125  
LST-930 #22435  
LST-957 (Amphib Forces) #18643  
LST-975 #13999  
LST Assn. "Brown Water"(VN) #28373  
LST Assn. (NV Chapt.) #18048  
LST Assn (PA Chapter) #19287  
LVT Repair Component #1 (Albany, CA WWII) #19582  
Manicani Island Assn (PI, 45/46) #21803  
MCB-2 (1950-56) #14671  
MCB-40 (All Eras) #18736  
Mine Sweeping Divisions 111-112 MSB's (VN) #21563  
NAS Glenview (IL) Survivors #19166  
NAS Johnston Island (43/45) #19782  
NAS Ottumwa (IA) #19605  
Naval Detachment Personnel (VN) #19030  
Naval Weather Service Assn. (NWSA, Incl. Mar.) #17839  
Navy Musicians #18944  
NOB (China) #19596  
NOB Shanghai Wang Pu Boat Pool (46/47) #19364  
NRS Wailupe/Wahiawa NPM (41/45) #19896  
NTC Bainbridge: Boot Camp Co. 4660 #21561  
NTC Great Lakes: Boot Camp 258 (1942) #19105  
NTC Great Lakes: Co. 328 (1943) #19223  
NTC San Diego: Co. 973 (1952/53) #20098  
NTS Farragut: Boot Camp Co. 437 (1943) #20573  
NTS Farragut Trainees (Midwest) #18110  
NTS San Diego: Co 200 (1954) #22447  
Nurse Corps Assn #17726  
Patrol Craft Sailors Assn (Incl CG, WWII) #18507  
PBM Mariner / P5M Marlin Assn. (All Assign.) #21625  
PBR's (VN) #21567  
PC-1235 / PC-558 #10856  
PC-476 #19744  
PC-549 #13721  
PC-566/451 #19250  
PC-579 #21503  
PC-588 (WWII) #12094  
Piney Pt. Torpedo Test Range #30118  
Pil Sq 17 #22402  
Radar Picket Ships (Sq 1/2/YAGR's/AGR's/Picket Ships/YR 23/65 #19777  
River Assault Div. 91/92/11/112/131/132/151/152/153 (VN) #13117  
River Assault Flotilla 1 (VN) #21585  
River Assault Flotilla One (VN) #21578  
SC-1341 (WWII) #21302  
Scouts & Ralders (WWII) #17580  
Seabee Island X-1-Seabee Veterans of America #18683  
Sea Owl SS-405 (New London, CT 1950) #22425  
SLCU-24 (43/45) #18921  
Taffy III-77.4.3 #18523

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USS Albemarle AV-5 Assn. #18570  
USS Albatross AKA-54 (All Eras) #17809  
USS Altamaha CVE-18 #10774  
USS America CVA-66 (ship's co., Air Wings, Marine Det.) #19927  
USS Amicus ARL-2 #17717  
USS Ancon AGC-4 #18008  
USS APC-14 (All WWII APC Sailors) #19899  
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USS Audrain AP-59 #17812  
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USS Bailey DD-492 #17507  
USS Baltimore CA-68/SSN-704 (Western States Chapt.) #18269  
USS Bancroft DD-598 Assn (WWII) #19003  
USS Banner APA-60 #21184  
USS Barnett APA-5 #12053  
USS Bataan CVL-29 (Air Grps & Mar Incl, WWII/Korea) #17516  
USS Bates DE-68/APD-47 #18867  
USS Beckham APA-133 (44/45) #19545  
USS Belle Grove LSD-2 #17495  
USS Benham DD-796 (Plankowners, WWII) #13254  
USS Bernadou DD-153 (WWII) #18424  
USS Betelgeuse AK-260 #14676  
USS Bexar APA-237 #13417  
USS Bigelow DD-942 #19213  
USS Biloxi CL-80 #21200  
USS Biscayne AVP-11/AGC-18 #17497  
USS Blenny SS-324 #13421  
USS Booth DE-170 (1943/45) #11556  
USS Boreas AF-8 #19274  
USS Bougainville CVE-100 #18860  
USS Brazos AO-14 (1919-46) #17414  
USS Breton CVE-23 #17846  
USS Broadwater APA-139 #19697  
USS Bronstein DE-189 #19479  
USS Brown DD-546 #18274  
USS Bulmer DD-222/AG-86 #18883  
USS Bunch DE-694/APD-79 (8 UDT-21) #17713  
USS Cadmus AR-14 #21438  
USS Caloosahatchee AO-98 #19828  
USS Calvert APA-32 #17817  
USS Cambria APA-36 #13027  
USS Cape Esperance CVE-88 (WWII, Korea) #14922  
USS Capricornus AKA-57 #10489  
USS Carronade/Clarion River/St. Francis River/White River (VN) #21565  
USS Casa Grande LSD-13 #19902  
USS Catamount LSD-17 #13387  
USS Catron APA-71 (WWII) #19566  
USS Chaffee DE-230 #17356  
USS Chandeleur AV-10 #14543  
USS Charles J. Badger DD-657 #19745  
USS Chase DE-158 #17559  
USS Chilton APA/LPA-38 (Incl Mar, 42/74) #22840  
USS Clarence L. Evans DE-113 (44-45) #12020  
USS Cole DD-155 (WWII) #12259  
USS Colhoun DD-801 Survivors Assn. (WWII) #17626  
USS Conklin DE-439 #18082  
USS Conyngham DD-371/DDG-17 #18563  
USS Coontz DLG-9 #22108  
USS Core CVE-13/VC-61/36/58 #18547  
USS Cottle APA-147 #11907  
USS Cowell DD-547 (All Crews) #21165  
USS Cromwell DE-1014 #19755  
USS Dallas DD-199 (WWII) #12260  
USS Darter SS-576 DFA Sub #13277  
USS Davidson DD-618/DMS-37 (WWII) #18387  
USS Day DE-225 #17883  
USS Delta AR-9/AK-29 #12216  
USS Detroit CL-8 Assn #17462  
USS Diphda AKA-59 #17934  
USS Dixie AD-14 (1973/75) #19929  
USS Drew APA-162 (WWII) #18574  
USS Drexler DD-741 #18385  
USS Dupont DD-152 (WWII) #12257  
USS Ellis DD-154 (WWII) #12258  
USS England DLG-22 Plankowners #21412  
USS English DD-696 #17651  
USS Epling Forest LSD-4/MCS-7 (1943/68) #19616  
USS Ethan Allen SSBN-608 #20484  
USS Fabius ARV(A)-5 / USS Aventinus ARV(E)-3 #15416  
USS Flying Fish SS-229 (1941-54) #10528  
USS Fond Du Lac APA-166 #14859  
USS Forrest B. Royal DD-872 #21816  
USS Forrest Sherman DD-931 #10815  
USS Forster DE-334 #14941  
USS Francis Marion LPA-249 #13229  
USS Franklin CV-13 #17889  
USS Fulton AS-11 Assn #18216  
USS Gage APA-168 (44/46) #14545  
USS Gardinara Bay AVP-39 (1945-57) #11875  
USS Gearing DD-710 #17383  
USS General H.W. Butner (AP-113) #28306  
USS General Wm. A. Mann AP-112/TAP-112 (1943-66) #13503  
USS Gen George M. Randall AP-115 (Incl CG, WWII/VN) #11891  
USS Gen J. C. Breckenridge AP-176 (Incl CG WWII/VN) #13176  
USS Gen W. H. Gordon AP-117 (Incl CG, WWII/VN) #11882  
USS Gen Wm Mitchell AP-114 (Incl CG, WWII/VN) #11885  
USS Gen Wm P. Richardson AP-118 (Incl CG, WWII/VN) #11888  
USS Gen Wm Weigel AP-119 (Incl CG, WWII/VN) #11886  
USS George E. Davis DE-357 #30106  
USS George F. Elliott AP-13/105 (East Coast Chapt) #21400  
USS George F. Elliott AP-13/105 (Heartland Chapt) #12135  
USS Goodhue APA-107 #18239  
USS Gosper APA-170 #18670  
USS Grundy APA-111 & USS Griggs APA-110 #13679  
USS Guadalcanal CVE-60/Task Grp 22.3 (Capture of U-505) #17727  
USS Gudgeon SS-567 DFA Sub #12559  
USS Gurke DD-783 #19055  
USS Haggard DD-555 (WWII) #17528  
USS Halibut SSN-587 #13238  
USS Hamlin AV-15 (Incl. Hq Sq. FAW-1, WWII) #20585  
USS Hammerberg DE-1015 #10810  
USS Harder SS-568 DFA Sub #13278  
USS Harrison DD-573 #22248  
USS Harry F. Bauer DM-26 #14511  
USS Hart DD-594 #10906  
USS Haynsworth DD-700 #21467  
USS Henry T. Allen AP-30/APA-15/AG-90 (WWII) #13495  
USS Heyliger DE-510 #11667  
USS Hickman County LST-825 (VN) #19925  
USS Hobson DD-464/DMS-26 #19586  
USS Hodges DE-231 #19454  
USS Holland AS-3 (WWII) #18122  
USS Holt DE-706 #17652  
USS Hopi ATF-71 #12033  
USS Hutchins DD-476 Assn. #18356  
USS Ingraham DD-694/FFG-61 #11203  
USS Intrepid CV/CVS-11 (PA Chap) #10060  
USS Izard DD-589 #21163  
USS Jack C. Robinson APD-72 #18072  
USS J. Franklin Bell AP-34/APA-16 (WWII) #22543  
USS J. Fred Talbott DD-156/AG-81 #18672  
USS John D. Henley DD-553 #18629  
USS John Paul Jones Assn. DD-230/DD-932/DDG-32 #11231  
USS Johnston DD-821 #10758  
USS John W. Thomson DD-760 #18505  
USS Jupiter AVS-8 #23126  
USS Kalk DD-611 #10895  
USS Kamehameha SSBN-642 #18960  
USS Kankakee AO-39 #18060  
USS Kemper County LST-854 (WWII, Korea, VN) #19664  
USS Kennebago AO-81 (WWII) #17775  
USS Kenneth D. Bailey DD-713 #13053  
USS Kenton APA-122 #10684  
USS Lake Champlain CV/CVA/CVS-39 (Incl. Mar/Alrmen '45/69) #17531  
USS Lark AM-21/ATO-168 #13734  
USS Lassen AE-3 #12024  
USS Latimer APA-152 (WWII) #10297  
USS Leary DD/DDR-879 #13412  
USS Lejeune AP-74 #18630  
USS Lenoir AKA-74 #14025  
USS Lexington CV-2 Club #18112  
USS Little DD-803 #13368  
USS Little Rock CL-92/CLG-4/CG-4 (Incl. Mar.) #14607  
USS Livermore DD-429 #18839  
USS Long Island CVE-1/VS-201 #18174  
USS MacDonald DLG-8/DDG-39 #19438  
USS Macomb DD-458/DMS-23 (WWII) #13119  
USS Mahan DD-364/DLG-11/DDG-42/DDG-72 Assn. #18312  
USS Makin Island CVE-93 & Sq VC-41/84/91 #10884  
USS Marias AO-57 #21430  
USS Mauna Loa AE-8 #19284  
USS McCoy Reynolds DE-440 #18435  
USS Mellette APA-156 (WWII/Korea) #23051  
USS Menominee ATF-73 #19439  
USS Milwaukee CL-5 #10003  
USS Mississippi BB-41 "Mighty Missy Alumni Assn" #22735  
USS Montrose APA-212 (44-69) #19498  
USS Mulberry AP-27 #19687  
USS Munising PC-1228 #17619  
USS Munson DD-698 #10770  
USS Murrelet AM-372 (Korea 51/54) #19356  
USS Nantahala AO-60 #11345  
USS New Orleans CA-32 (All Hands, 1934/46) #18045  
USS Noa DD-841/343 #22092  
USS Oakhill LSD-7 #19534  
USS Ocklawaha AO-84 #18908  
USS Oconto APA-187 #11648  
USS Oglala ARG-1 #19237  
USS Oklahoma BB-37 Assn. #17830  
USS O'Toole DE-527 #22439  
USS Pavlic APD-70 #18150  
USS Pawcatuck AO-108 #11625  
USS Perkins DD/DDR-877, DD-377, DD-26 #10607  
USS Pocomoke AV-9 (Incl. PBV/PBM Sqs., WWII) #20891  
USS Portsmouth CL-102 (44/50) #13907  
USS President Monroe AP-104 (WWII/VN) #19087  
USS President Warfield IX-169 (Normandy, 1944) #16107  
USS Price DE-332 #18635  
USS Princeton CV-37/LPH-5 Assn #19783  
USS Princeton CV-37/LPH-5 Assn. Inc. #14689  
USS Purdy DD-734 #17965  
USS Pursuit AM-108/AGS-17 #11021  
USS Quappaw ATF-110 #21242  
USS Quincy CA-39 (1936/42) #18546  
USS Raleigh CL-7 Assn. (Incl. Omaha Class Cruiser Sailors) #17744  
USS Ranger CV/CVA-61 Assn (57/93) #17742  
USS Rapidan AO-18 #18513  
USS Rich DD/DDE-820/DE-695 #11396  
USS Rich DE-695 Survivors Assn. #13711  
USS Roanoke CL-145 #11418  
USS Rowe DD-564 #14396  
USS Rudderow DE-224 #19453  
USS Rupertus DD-851 #13635  
USS Salem CA-139 (Incl. Mar.) #17373  
USS San Francisco CA-38 Assn. #17805  
USS San Pablo Assn. #22038  
USS Santa Fe CL-60 Assn. #18933  
USS Sargo SSN-583 #19954  
USS Saufley EDDE-465 (All Eras) #17417  
USS Sebec AO-87 #12604  
USS Shadwell LSD-15 #13221  
USS Shea DM-30 #10309  
USS Shea DM-30 (WWII) #20640  
USS Sigbee DD-502 (WWII) #11001  
USS Silverside SSN-679 (All Years) #19678  
USS Smalley DD-565 (WWII/Korea) #17959  
USS Soley DD-707 Assn. (All Years) #18530  
USS Spica AK-16 (WWII) #20682  
USS Spokane CL(AA)-120 #19942  
USS Springfield Assn. CL-66/CLG-7/SSN-761 (Incl. Mar.) #19599  
USS Steinkor DD/DDR-863 #19636  
USS Stockton DD-646 #18241  
USS Storm King APA-171 #21963  
USS St. Paul CA-73/SSN-708 "The Fighting Sault" (Incl. Mar.) #10548  
USS Strickland DE/DER-333 #18529  
USS Sturtevant DE-239 (51-58) #22593  
USS Summit County LST-1146 #19203  
USS Sweater DE-186 #17458  
USS Talbot DEG/FFG-4 #14604  
USS Tallahatche County LST-1154/AVG-2 #14378  
USS Tang SS-563 DFA Sub #13281  
USS Tarawa CV/CVA/CVS-40 (Incl Air Grps/Mar) #18423  
USS Terrell Co LST-1157 #13028  
USS Thomas E. Fraser DM-24 #13284  
USS Thomas Jefferson SSBN-618 #12293  
USS Thomas DE-203 #18297  
USS Ticonderoga CV/CVA/CVS-14/CG-47 Assn. #17791  
USS Tiri SS-416/USS Bream SS-243 #19736  
USS Tiana AKA-13 #17736  
USS Toledo CA-133/SSN-769 Assn. #18031  
USS Trapper ACM-9 (WWII) #22997  
USS Trevor DD-339 #10726  
USS Trigger SS-564 DFA Sub #13280  
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USS Truckee AO-147 (All Div./Years) #21343  
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USS Tucson CLAA-98 Assn. (1944/49) #14448  
USS Tulare AKA/LKA-112 (1956/80) #19617  
USS Tularan AG-46 #22349  
USS Turner DD/DDR-834 #13556  
USS Vulcan AR-5 (1941/46) #10779  
USS Wahoo SS-565 DFA Sub #13282  
USS Wake Island CVE-65 #19702  
USS Wallace L. Lind DD-703 #11373  
USS Watts DD-567 #19631  
USS White Marsh LSD-8 (52/54) #13557  
USS Whitley AKA-91 (1944/54) #21967  
USS Whitney AD-4 #22631  
USS Willard Keith DD-775 (1944-49) #22302  
USS William R. Rush DD/DDR-714 #21707  
USS Wm D. Porter DD-579 #12143  
USS Wrangell AE-12 Assn (WWII/Korea/VN/Med) #21917  
USS Wren DD-568 (1944/63) #11223  
USS Wyffels DE-6 #21990  
USS Wyman DE-38 #10971  
USS Xanthus AR-19 #18262  
USS Yarnall DD-541 (1943/55) #18444  
USS Yorktown Engineers CV/CVA/CVS-10 (Incl Mar 58-63) #21623  
USS Yosemite AD-19 Assn #17709  
USS Young DD-580 (WWII) #12145  
USS Zane DMS-14/DD-337 #18119  
USS Zaniah AG-70 #10778  
USS Zeal AM-131 Assn. (WWII/Korea) #10683  
V-12 Prgm: Gustavus Adolphus College (WWII) #22420  
V-5 Pgm, 6th Bn (Wooster, OH '43) #21249  
VA-728/VA-155 (Korea, 50-55) #18460  
VB-98 (1943/44) #12222  
VB/VB-144 (WWII) #22742  
VC-61 Photo Sq. (1949/54) #21214  
VC-6 Navy Sq (WWII) #13251  
VC-70 Sq (Pilots) #15043  
VC-83 Comp Sq #22401  
VC-84 Squadron #28290  
VF-53/VF-141 "Iron Angels" #18656  
VF-54 (Naval Air Sq) #18490  
VF(N)-90 (USS Enterprise CV-6, '44/45) #23001  
VF/VA-174, "Hellrazors" #21829  
Vietnam Swift Boat Crew, PCF Boats (Washington, DC) #19825  
VJ/VU-1/VU-7A, Utility Sq 1 (NAS Barbers Pt) #22504  
VP-102/HL-2/VP-22 (1946/50), Privateers/Neptune, CASU-2/45 (Guam, HI) #19683  
VP-28/VPHL-8 Ptl Sq 28, PB4Y-2 Privateers only (1947-53) #19217  
VP-772 Navy Patrol Sq. (Korea, 1950) #13101  
VPB-17 #19756  
VPB-25 (WWII) #22144  
VR-21 (All Years) #22641  
VS-721 Naval Air Reserve Recall (1961) #18204  
VT-13 #13819  
WAVES: NAS Memphis (WWII) #17940  
YMS-52 #10127  
YO-120 #21550

## Air Force

- 2nd Avn. Fld. Depot Sq. (1951/54) #14037  
3rd Hospital Grp., 7510th Hospital (Wimpole PK, Eng.) #15058  
5th AF (Nagoya Airbase, Japan) #19624  
6th AF Sq #13098  
7th AF, 41st Bomb Grp., 820th Bomb Sq. (WWII) #13462  
7th AF, Hq & Hq Sq. (ETO WWII) #20455  
Please turn page



# STOLEN MEDALS

Continued from page 29

of his brave actions off the coast of Lebanon in 1958.

The judge's deceit was brought to light by a genuine Medal of Honor winner, Harold Fritz.

**D**ESPITE law-enforcement's involvement in the recent high-profile cases, as the O'Brien case suggests, the pursuit of stolen medals has traditionally been the province of amateur sleuths. These sleuths tend to fall into one of two categories: either bona fide holders of important decorations, like Harold Fritz, or people connected to the legitimate memorabilia trade.

"Investigators usually consider this type of activity to be a low-priority offense," says retired Navy Capt. Stan Sirmans, who uncovered the Pyne scam in the course of talking to one of the intended marks, retired Navy Adm. Maurice Rindskopf. "It has mostly been people who value heroes and heroism who have cared about crimes involving military medals."

In 1991, Sirmans and a New York medals dealer, George Harris, discovered that several dozen fraudulent Purple Hearts had been sold to collectors around the country. The medals were engraved to look as if they had been awarded for specific actions.

Sirmans traced the medals to an Oregon jeweler who had unwittingly been hired to turn ordinary Purple Hearts into valuable collectors' items. Sirmans and Harris pressured the accidental "mastermind" into abandoning his handiwork. The matter was never prosecuted.

Police usually begin investigating military medal crimes only when there is a significant dollar amount at stake. Harris, for example, recalls being contacted by the FBI a number of years ago in connection with a rare NC-4 medal that had passed through his hands. The medal, authorized by Congress to be awarded to the Navy crew of the first transatlantic flight that took place in 1919, was one of only six in existence. It sold for "thousands upon thousands of dollars" then, says Harris, who ventures that the medal would fetch up to \$70,000 today.

He was shocked to learn that the medal had been stolen two or three years earlier from a museum in Pensacola, Fla. "The museum had never

reported it missing, and as a result, I wasn't on the alert," he says. The thief was eventually caught and convicted.

Experts say that thefts of medals from museums is an ongoing problem especially where the Medal of Honor is concerned.

"It's widespread throughout the country," says Michael Williams, executive director of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society in Charleston, S.C. "Somebody sees a pretty medal on display at a museum, and if they get a chance to take it, they will."

A Navy Medal of Honor and six Army Medals of Honor have been stolen from the Hall of Heroes in the Pentagon, says Jean Kirk, who heads the awards and special projects branch for the Chief of Naval Operations. Another Medal of Honor, awarded to the late Vice Adm. Lawson P. "Red" Ramage, was stolen in 1994 from the USS Bowfin Museum and Park in Honolulu. None of these medals has ever been recovered.

**A**SIDE FROM being understandably distressing to the victims, the rash of medals thefts has also caused enormous anxiety among legitimate collectors.

"Stealing medals from war heroes is

in the same league as digging up graves," says Charles P. McDowell, president of the Orders and Medals Society of America (OMSA), a collectors' group with some 2,000 members nationwide. "It creates havoc for those of us whose main interest is preserving history. It's very distressing to find that when you have been trying to do the right thing, you have also been doing the wrong thing, that is to say, inadvertently helping a thief" by providing a marketplace for the medals.

To help curb the tide of medals thefts, the OMSA has raised the profile of its stolen-medals registry, which currently tracks about 50 cases. Each entry describes the theft of either a single medal or an entire collection, says registry director Brian Cannon.


In addition, the OMSA has issued a strict code of ethics specifying the organization's commitment to give full support to authorities in cracking medals cases.

"My emphasis is that medals belong first to the recipients or their families," says McDowell. "If those rightful owners don't want the medals, then the collectors ought to get them for purposes of preservation."

"Our nation's heroes deserve no less." □

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# VETS

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8th AF, 479th Ftr. Grp., 436th Ftr. Sq. (Eng., WWII) #19718  
 8th AF, 584th Tac. Ctrl. Grp. #19822  
 8th AF Historical Society #12388  
 9th AF, 2nd Air Depot, 23rd Depot Rep. Sq. #20318  
 11th Bomb Wing, 26th Bomb Sq. (Altus AFB, OK '57/68) #11673  
 11th Postal Sq (Okinawa 55-57) #22422  
 20th AF, 331st Bomb Grp(Guam) #21164  
 20th AF, 73rd Bomb Wing B-29 Grps. & Assgn. Units (Saipan WWII) #17001  
 20th Fld. Maint. Sq. (Weathersfield Eng., '59/63) #19879  
 26th Air Div. (Roslyn AFB, '48/58) #19247  
 27th Ftr Escort Wing, Motor Pool (Bergstrom AFB, '49/51) #30010  
 31st Trans. Grp. (WWII) #19886  
 34th Air Ref. Sq. (Offutt, '58/66) #19963  
 38th Bomb Wing (France, '50/58) #19995  
 48th TAC Hospital (RAF Lakenheath, '66/68) #19974  
 50th Ftr Bomb Wing (52-58) #22437  
 58th Ftr Assn (WWII-Present) #22918  
 62nd TC Wing/Mil Airlift Wing #15182  
 66th TRW, 30/302/303 TRS (Silmach, Ger. '54/58) #19850  
 69th Ftr Bomb Sq "Werewolves" Assn (Korea) #15068  
 74th Ftr Intercept Sq (1953/56) #19122  
 95th Ftr. Sq. (WWII) #14964  
 98th Air Refueling Sq. #19935  
 98th Ftr Bomb Wing, Comm Sq (Okinawa, Formosa, '54/55) #13398  
 307th Bomb Wing B-47/KC-97 Assn #12947  
 310th Ftr Bomb Sq (Korea) #24048  
 310th Pursuit/Ftr/Bomber Sq #22424  
 311th Ftr Sq (WWII)/Ftr Bomb Sq (Korea) #22899  
 317th C.A.M.S., 317th Field Maint. Sq. (France, '59/64) #12368  
 319th Ftr Intercept Sq (Bunker Hill, Korea, Homestead) #15094  
 325th Airdrome Sq #10729  
 333rd Bomb Grp, 507th Bomb Sq #15061  
 351st Bomb Grp. Assn. (Eng., WWII) #15084  
 371st Ftr. Grp., 405th Ftr. Sq. (WWII) #21546  
 374th Aerial Port Sq. (Clark AFB, Philippines) #19659

376th Air Serv. Sq. #12158  
 395th Sig Avn Co (WWII) #30018  
 416th Bomb Group Assn. (WWII) #28422  
 433rd F.I.S. (1953/57) #19632  
 459th Ftr. Sq. #21540  
 464th Tac. Air Wing (Pope AFB, NC '67/69) #19898  
 465th Bomb Grp., 782nd Bomb Sq. #19903  
 474th Ftr Bomb Grp (Korea) #19540  
 511th AC&W Grp., 613th/847th/848th Sqs. (Japan, '47/54) #19053  
 525th FIS (Bilburg, Ger) #14792  
 548th RTS/6th Photo Tech Sq (Yakota AFB, Japan 1947/60) #19787  
 552nd AEW&C Wing (EC-121 Aircraft, McClellan AFB, '55/75) #12105  
 729th AC&W Sq (Robins AFB, 56-68) #22441  
 857th Med. Grp. #20772  
 259th Airpolice Sq. (Brooks AFB, 1950's) #19542  
 2750th ABW Air Police #14031  
 3360th Instructor Grp., Minuteman Msl. Pers. (Chanute AFB, 1961-65) #21571  
 3558th Combat Crew Trng. Sq. (CCTS) 1953-61 #13952  
 4080th Strat. Recon. Wing (All Sq's) #15190  
 Air Weather Assn (Incl AAF) #17266  
 Aviation Cadets Class (Sta. Maxwell Fld, AL) #19520  
 Chambley AB, France (Including Army) #22713  
 Det 408, USAF Recruiting (New Orleans) #19485  
 EOD Masterblasters Inc. #19889  
 Lajes Fld, Azores (405/50s) #11237  
 MISAWA (54-56) #19372  
 Pilot Class 45-A (Altus, OK) #19893  
 RAF (All Units, Welford Eng.) #19658  
 Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Assn. #21720

5th Mar, 3rd Bn, India Co (VN) #19887  
 5th Mar Div, 28th Rgt, 1st Bn, C Co (Iwo Jima, 45) #22894  
 6th Mar Div Assn (Nat'l) #17188  
 7th Mar Div, 3rd Bn, I Co. (Korea/VN) #17145  
 12th Defense Bn #17139  
 12th Mar. Rgt., 4th Bn., Kilo Co. (VN, '65/69) #11220  
 26th Rgt, 1st Bn, B Co, 3rd Pltn (66/67) #19884  
 Air Support Grp. 51 (Mojave, '42/58) #19979  
 AWS-12 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11733  
 AWS-13 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11734  
 AWS-8 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11716  
 Basic School Class 2-56 (Mar.-Sept. 1956) #21553  
 Boot Camp Parris Isl., Plt 208 (1948) #19677  
 Drill Instructors (Parris Is) #11163  
 HM-12 #19681  
 HMR-361 #19301  
 Korean Conflict Marines (Overseas/Stateside, '50/55) #28394  
 MAG-11/12/14 #17166  
 Mar Adv Unit/Nav Adv Grp (VN) #12975  
 Marine Base Defense Aircraft 44 (Mojave, '42/58) #19981  
 MCRD San Diego: Pltn. 1048 (Nov. '42) #14914  
 Mojave Desert Marines Assn. (All Sqs. '42/58) #21035  
 MP, Guard Det. (Mojave 42/58) #19980  
 Nat'l Shooting Sq. Members (USMC Reserves, Camp Perry, OH) #21334  
 Station Hq. Sq. Base Personnel (Mojave 42/58) #19978  
 USS Missouri BB-63 Marines #10343  
 Vietnam Helicopter Pilots, Aircrew, & Support Personnel #13932  
 VMB-613 #17181  
 VMD-254 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11710  
 VMF-121 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11711  
 VMF-123 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11721  
 VMF-124 (Mojave 42/58) #20352  
 VMF-213 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11712  
 VMF-214 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11726  
 VMF-218 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11707  
 VMF-221 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11724  
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 VMF-324 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11717  
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 VMF-512 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11719  
 VMF-513 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11722  
 VMF-514 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11723  
 VMO-251 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11709  
 VMO-351 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11720  
 VMSB-142 (WWII) #18952  
 VMSB-236 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11706  
 VMSB-332 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11713  
 VMTB-132 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11725  
 VMTB-134 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11715  
 VMTB-144 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11727  
 VMTB-151 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11735  
 VMTB-454 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11728  
 VMTB-622 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11729  
 VMTB-623 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11730  
 VMTB-624 (Mojave 42/58 WWII) #11731

## Army Air Forces

4th Ferrying Grp. (ATC: Nashville/Memphis/Little Rock/Homestead, WWII) #13061  
 5th AF, 47th/479th Serv. Sqs. #21975  
 7th AF, 13th Serv. Grp., 489th Serv. Sq. (WWII) #22668  
 8th AF, 2nd Air Div (B-24's, All Units) #19175  
 8th AF, 364th Ftr Grp/Support Units (Honington Eng, WWII) #15153  
 8th AF, 390th Bomb Grp. (WWII) #10469  
 8th Photo Recon. Sq. (WWII) #10738  
 9th A/F, 394th Bomb Grp., 584th Bomb Sq. (WWII) #16831  
 9th AF, 896th Sig Avn Depot Co (WWII) #10688  
 9th AF Assn. (Nat'l) #19017  
 13th AF, 13th Airdrome Sq. #10898  
 13th AF, 29th Air Serv. Grp. (1941-48) #16754  
 13th AF, 42 Bomb Grp, 75 Bomb Sq(B-52, Solomons, Philippines, WWII) #20882  
 15th/20th Weather Sq Assn #20615  
 15th AF, 459th Bomb Grp Assn (WWII) #15186  
 15th AF, 484th Bomb Grp., 49th Bomb Wing, "Pathfinders" (Italy, WWII) #10404  
 20th AF, 311th Recon Wing, 3rd Photo Recon Sq (WWII) #20260  
 21st/22nd TC Sqs. (Charter Members) #16773  
 47th Bomb Grp. (WWII) #10780  
 50th TC Wing, Hq/Hq Sq (WWII) #16898  
 93rd Bomb Wing, 330th Bomb Sq #15129  
 94th Ftr. Sq. #12458  
 106th Cav Grp (Annual Bivouac) #16370  
 313th TC Grp., 29th TC Sq. (WWII) #14269  
 380th Bomb Grp., "Flying Circus" (WWII) #30054  
 394th Bomb Grp (M) B-26 (WWII) #20223  
 445th Bomb Grp. (WWII) #17781  
 464th Sig(H) Const Co (46-49) #22433  
 474th Ftr Grp, 429th Ftr Sq (WWII) #20805  
 486th Bomb Grp(H) Assn (Eng, WWII) #16895  
 1905th/1906th Ord. Ammo. Co. (Avn.) #13232  
 83/84th Air Depot Gps. & Atch. Civilians (Eritrea, Iran, India WWII) #21466  
 348-550th Night Ftr Sqs (WWII) #16973  
 Crew 134 #19691  
 Ftr Control Sq 306/312/316/431 & 29th TAC Air Command #21973  
 Pilot Class 43-D (All Commands) #16822  
 Pilot Class 43-K (Central Flying Trng. Comm.) #11117  
 Pilot Class 44-D (29 Palms/Merced CA, Luke Field, AZ) #12483  
 Pyote Army Air Base #16056  
 Santa Ana Army Air Base Wing (WWII) #16719  
 Tuskegee Airmen Inc. (WWII) #10016

## Merchant Marine

Merchant Marine Veterans (WWII) #12278

## Coast Guard

Bering Sea Patrol, AK Vets Assn. #17070  
 LST-67 #13684  
 Patrol Frigate Assn. #10888  
 USCG Academy, Class of 1946 #19972  
 USCGC Campbell W-32 #12971  
 USCGC Campbell W-32 (Incl. WMEC-909 1936-82) #17059  
 USCGC Casco WAVP-370 (1949/69) #12307  
 USCGC Dexter WAVP-385 #19877  
 USCGC Modoc W-46 (North Atlantic Convoys, 1941-1945) #17036  
 USCGC Taney (1936/86) #12655  
 USS Adm C F Hughes AP-124 (WWII/VN) #13491  
 USS Adm E W Eberle AP-123 (WWII/VN) #13493  
 USS Adm H T Mayo AP-125 (WWII/VN) #13489  
 USS Adm W L Capps AP-121 (WWII/VN) #13175  
 USS Allentown PF-52, Escort Div. 33 (WWII) #17009  
 USS General Hugh L. Scott AP-136 (WWII) #10099  
 USS Menger DE-320 #17020

## Miscellaneous

American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor (Nat'l Assn.) #13480  
 AP Transport Reunion Group #18620  
 Augusta Military Academy (Ft. Defiance, VA) #21401  
 Dakota Bull Session #21683  
 Khe Sanh Vets (61-71) #22446  
 Korean War Vets Assn. (Nat.) #21767  
 MAC Flight Crews (VN) #22438  
 Office of Strategic Service, R&D Branch (WWII) #19797  
 Persian Gulf Command Vets (WWII) #21738  
 Polish Legion of American Vets (Post 207) #20248  
 Port Lytaute Alumni Assn. (MCB-4/8) #17207  
 Radlomen (Navy/Marines) #21141  
 Revisit Korea Tour #20447  
 The Rhodesian Veterans Assn. #13030  
 Warbrides (WWII) #19614

## Marines

1st Mar. Div., 1st Rgt., 1st Bn., C Co. (WWII) #21297  
 1st Mar Div, 26th Rgt, 3rd Bn, K Co (69/70) #12838  
 1st Mar. Div, 5th Rgt., 2nd Bn., Easy Co. (Korea, '50/54) #10361  
 1st Mar. Div., 5th Rgt., 3rd Bn., H Co. (Pusan-Chosin 1950) #13405  
 1st Mar. Div., 7th Rgt., 3rd Bn., I Co. (Korea-Present) #17179  
 1st Mar Div Assn (1941-Present) #10848  
 1st Prov. Marine Bde. (Korea) #17180  
 3rd Mar. Div., 9th Rgt., 1st Bn., "Operation Purple Heart" (VN) #12988  
 3rd MAW, VMSB 343 (WWII) #22430  
 4th Rgt, 2nd Bn Assn #10545  
 4th Rgt (Corregidor/Bataan) #17130  
 5th/14th Def. Bns. Assn. / ZMQ-3 (WWII) #13764  
 5th Field/Serv. Depots "5th Fielders" (Guam, WWII) #12419

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# LAST BATTLESHIP

Continued from page 27

director of the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum. "In World War II, when the United States moved in with row after row of battleships, the Japanese simply wouldn't do battle." The ships had a similar deterrent effect on ground combat in Korea and Vietnam.

With such a proud past, many veterans, experts and military historians still hold out hope for a more promising future for these special ships as Congress debates their fate.

"They were great ships," says Thompson of CBS' *60 Minutes*. "It would be nice if they were kept in mothballs so they could be brought back if needed."

Boyne agrees that the Navy should keep one or two of the battleships ready to go just in case.

As for the ships' final disposition? "Right now it's anybody's guess," says Graham of the Battleship Association. "The *Wisconsin*, no one knows. There are strong rumors that the *Missouri* would go to Pearl Harbor, the *Iowa* to Patriot's Point, S.C., and the *New Jersey* to Liberty Point, N.J."

Graham adds that "they would be a memorial and a museum and a tourist attraction," similar to what has already been done with four other battleships. But Graham hints at the darker prospect that the ships may even be sold for scrap metal—a tragic end for the *Iowa*, *New Jersey*, *Wisconsin* and *Missouri*.

In any case, there's no doubt that in the hearts and minds of those who knew them best, the ships many call past their time will always be part of the arsenal that made America the world's greatest superpower.

As Boyne puts it, "The battleship was a symbol of our entrance into our status as a great power. It preserved that status in four conflicts and we should all be grateful to it for doing so. There will be no replacement for battleships. There will never be another ship like them."

## TAPS

Taps notices are limited to only those Legionnaires who have held high national or department offices. We regret that we cannot extend the honor to all members.

Gil V. Aldea, PI Department Adjutant (1992-94), Department Commander (1994-96).

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# FIREFIGHTERS

*Continued from page 31*

fire department is somewhat of a quasi-military organization.

They know how to take orders; they know how to follow orders without question, whereas, sometimes, young people coming into the fire service have not had that type of training. If you've been in the service, you know how to follow orders. And in the fire service, that's exactly what needs to happen at the scene of an emergency.

**Q. Firefighters are also at war with city budget cutters who want to privatize fire departments. What will that do to public safety?**

**A.** The only reason an agency would go to a private fire department is to cut costs and in those kinds of situations, it invariably means cuts in service. Private fire departments gamble that there won't be a major incident that they would never be able to handle because of lack of training, experience, staffing and equipment. That's how they save money. It's not a good bargain, because you shouldn't gamble with people's lives and property.

Fire departments and emergency medical services are an integral part of government and should be a governmental function.

**Q. How have private fire departments fared?**

**A.** In most cases, private fire departments are much weaker, understaffed and inexperienced. There have even been cases where private fire departments lost contracts because the public got involved and stopped the politicians from trying to cut budgets at the expense of public safety.

**Q. How have staffing cuts and the reduction of engine companies impacted public safety?**

**A.** There are cases where an engine or truck company was shut down and lives could have been saved had they still been in service. One comes to mind. In an effort to cut budgets, the city of Westminster, Calif., cut out a truck company. Soon after, there was a fire and a civilian fatality. The fire officers at the scene felt that had that truck company still been there, the person would have been saved.

Also, some municipal fire depart-

ments are understaffed and use outdated equipment. In a municipal area, you will normally have four persons on an engine company. That's a very basic thing and there are cases where you need to have five or six persons on an engine. It is virtually impossible to fight a structure fire with less than four. The very parts of what each person does at the fire scene is necessary to initiate offensive operations and enter a burning building. We call them interior attacks and they should be done in teams of two, with two firefighters outside who are available for rescue and assistance.

**Q. Is there a correlation between the number of firefighters assigned to a fire truck and injury rates among firefighters?**

**A.** Absolutely. There is a direct correlation between the amount of personnel on an engine and firefighter injuries. The less people, the more injuries.

**Q. Why are many fire departments combining with emergency medical services (EMS) to help communities cut costs?**

**A.** I think it's a natural fit. For a number of years, firefighters have been providing emergency medical services. As the training and expertise grew among our people, they have taken on a larger role in the pre-hospital care of people in the communities they serve. More and more communities have fire departments providing basic and advanced life support, as well as ambulances.

**Q. What benefits does a fire-EMS system offer?**

**A.** The first and the most dramatic benefit you see is the survival rate of people who have a full cardiac arrest or heart attack. As a result of fire houses being strategically placed in a community, fire-based EMS units offer much lower response times than private providers or an ambulance operated from any other location. The quicker the ambulance gets to the scene, the greater chance that the patient will survive.

And saving that citizen's life is our bottom line.

**Q. Today, there are many women in the fire service. How are they doing?**

**A.** I believe that the majority of women who have come into the fire service feel just like the men do about the profession. They like what

they're doing. There were a lot of people who thought women couldn't do the job. The truth is that there are some men who can't do the job. It's physically demanding work. I'm proud to say that the women who have come into the fire service are doing an excellent job.

**Q. Are firefighters being paid what they deserve?**

**A.** Many communities have cut firefighters' salaries and benefits. Many firefighters have not gotten salary increases for several years and are not keeping up with inflation.

**Q. Why do people become professional firefighters?**

**A.** Many times, someone in their family or close friends are firefighters. They are looking for a challenging and fulfilling career. And the fire service offers that.

Firefighters are devoted people who take great pride in their work. It's a way of life, a personal identity. In fact, very few people ever leave the fire service, unless they're killed or injured.

**Q. What can the public do to help support career firefighters?**

**A.** The public needs to be aware of what's going on in a community, where the budgets are being allocated. They need an overall awareness about the fire department and what it does. They need to voice their opinions to the city council, supervisor or whoever is responsible for providing a fire department.

**Q. How important is public support to firefighters?**

**A.** It is very important. The support of the public normally is the force that prevents any reduction of fire protection in a community. Every voice counts.

**Q. What's the most important thing the public should know about firefighters?**

**A.** I don't think the public really understands what makes firefighters tick. Firefighters have a "Class A" personality. They are willing to put their lives on the line for people they don't even know. It's not just a job. Firefighters are a very caring group of people. They actually care about other human beings.

We all expect our lives to be in danger, but none of us knew we'd be in the line of fire, fodder for bullets with our names written on them. That shouldn't be part of the bargain. □



# JAILHOUSE

Continued from page 33

a birthday cake or the color of a pair of prison-issued long johns.

"We've had one inmate state publicly that his purpose was to break the State of Nevada." In 95 percent of the cases, these "frequent filers" get no damage awards for themselves, says Del Papa, "so that tells you something about their motives. It's recreational litigation."

According to a special report by ABC's *20/20*, the modern-day record for jailhouse litigation is held by Florida's Robert Procup, who has filed more than 300 nuisance lawsuits costing the state a total of some \$15 million. Procup, serving a life sentence for killing his business partner then cementing him into a storage cubicle, has sued because he didn't get a salad at lunch; because his shoes wore out; because he didn't have a TV in his room.

Of course, some convicts have a more pragmatic agenda: making their prison stays more comfortable by enhancing the "country-club" atmosphere that has taxpayers up in arms. A sampling of the top items on the cons' wish list:

*Expanded conjugal-visit privileges.* One prisoner successfully sued to have his trysts at a local hotel because he felt the accommodations provided by the prison were "not conducive to romance."

*Special meals, including costly shellfish and prime cuts of beef.* These suits typically are brought on the grounds that standard prison fare is either unhealthy, incompatible with a con's "special dietary needs" or against someone's religious beliefs.

*Access to automobiles.* An inmate with six months remaining on his sentence sued for the right to drive a car outside the prison compound twice a week. He said he feared that his driving skills had deteriorated markedly during his seven years in prison, and he didn't want to be a "public menace" once he got out. He won his case, provoking actions by other inmates suddenly concerned about their driving.

*Controlled substances.* Some inmates have had success demanding powerful prescription narcotics like Percodan and Demerol to treat a variety of dubious medical conditions. Says one bemused jailer, "We end up

handing them stuff for free that's better than what they had to steal on the street!"

And so it goes. Unhappy with being dubbed "the B.O. bandit" by the FBI, a bank robber sues the agency for defamation of character. A convicted child molester goes to court because prison officials wouldn't let him receive a publication glorifying sex between adults and children. Another con alleges brutality after a guard conks him with a flashlight; what the con neglects to mention in his complaint was that at the time of the incident, he had just stabbed the guard with an ice pick. An Indianapolis man sues to collect the life-insurance proceeds of the woman he was sent to jail for murdering.

"The audacity of some of these characters is amazing," says Sam Knott, a leading voice in the victims'-rights movement since his daughter was murdered in 1986. "They're turning hard time into play time, and we're letting them get away with it."

**T**HE OBVIOUS question is *why*? Why do we sit still for it? "The Constitution is on their side," explains eminent San Diego appeals court Judge Richard Huffman. "The right to bring suit for some perceived injustice supersedes almost every other consideration."

Several states that tried to plug the dike by stipulating that no prisoner be allowed to have more than two suits pending at one time saw their meager efforts run aground in the higher courts. When Florida sought relief from Robert Procup's nonstop litigating, the state's position was upheld in the lower court, then overturned on appeal.

Making matters worse, the normal constraints that work to mitigate this syndrome in society-at-large are absent in the prison environment. A private citizen who undertakes litigation has to pay filing fees, attorneys' per diems and other associated expenses. Most of us won't stay the course unless the issue is one of grave personal concern. Too, in most jurisdictions, a private citizen faces penalties for bringing frivolous litigation. At the very least, he will be compelled to pay court costs for the other side.

None of this is much of a factor in jail. For convicts, the filing process is as painless as signing an affidavit claiming insolvency. The state waives all fees—and even pays postage. For the same reasons, cons couldn't care less about losing cases. "With nothing

at stake," says Arizona's Woods, "they can go file their lawsuits and who knows, maybe they'll hit the jackpot."

As for legal expertise, the U.S. Supreme Court in 1977 ordered every state prison to provide inmates access to an up-to-date law library. As one attorney general laments, "Prisoners in this state have a better law library than I have in my office." Incoming prisoners are shown the ropes by seasoned cons who practically live their lives studying case law. The savvy old-timers circulate standardized legal forms, teaching novices to simply white out the name of the previous litigant and fill in their own name wherever applicable.

The result is a system turned on its ear. As one state attorney general puts it, "The worst of the worst in our society get special privileges across the board."

Recently, high-ranking officials of several states hardest hit by prison litigation formed a task force. Their activities show some early promise. Now, at least in a handful of jurisdictions, if the court decides that a suit is frivolous—as in the case of the inmate who tried to sue because he didn't get his dental floss—officials can dock the inmate's so-called good time. Nevada officials have come up with an "early intervention" approach where the courts take a preliminary peek at the case to determine if it's off the wall. Del Papa also is hopeful about new federal legislation, the Prison Litigation Reform Act, that was wending its way through Congress at press time. Sources in the Nevada attorney general's office said in early January that the legislation had passed the Senate and was temporarily stalled in the house. (The bill had been attached to budget legislation and thus got bogged down in the partisan give-and-take over the government's balancing act.) The legislation came out of several meetings Del Papa and some of her disgruntled colleagues have had with Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch and others sympathetic to the problem.

Meanwhile, things get curiously and curiously. Prison administrators are wringing their hands over a landmark June 1994 Supreme Court ruling that animal sacrifice is legal, so long as it's part of a religious ceremony. Presumably it's only a matter of time before prisoners start asking for live goats to kill, and the knives to kill them with.

At some point, concludes Sam Knott, "we as a society better say, this bull must stop." □

—By Steve Salerno



# CONVENTION '96

Continued from page 36

neers named the territory around them the "Land of Deseret" after the industrious biblical honeybee.

**Pioneer Memorial Museum.** This facility has 38 rooms filled with artifacts and vintage farm machinery and vehicles.

**Salt Lake Art Center.** Contemporary works by regional and national artists are on display at the two-level gallery.

**Maurice Abravanel Concert Hall.** It's home to the Utah Symphony Orchestra and hosts other concerts throughout the year. The hall's acoustics are ranked with those of the finest symphonic facilities in the world. The convention's American Legion Band Contest will be held here Aug. 31.

**Trolley Square.** If shopping is your bag, this may be the place to visit. The square also boasts theaters and restaurants.

**Hansen Planetarium.** The domed theater entertains and informs visitors with star shows, stage plays and laser/music displays.

There are other attractions outside Salt Lake City that Legion family members also may want to take time out to visit:

**The Great Salt Lake/State Park.** Located 17 miles west of downtown, this body of water is eight times saltier than any ocean and second only to the Dead Sea in salt content. Beaches and carnival rides are located at the park.

**Kennecott Copper Mine.** The world's largest man-made excavation, the Kennecott Copper Mine is more than two miles wide and its depth is more than twice the height of Chicago's Sears Tower.

**Lagoon's Pioneer Village.** If it's time to hit the trail, make the village your destination. Cowboys and horse-drawn carriages roam this 42-building attraction, located 17 miles north of Salt Lake City.

**Wendover.** One-arm bandits. Black Jack. A roll of the dice or spin of the roulette wheel. Make a run for the Utah-Nevada border and take your chances. As a historical aside, Wendover was the site where members of Col. Paul Tibbets' special bomber crews trained for atomic missions during World War II.

Like the settlers who found the area to be one of promise, so too will members of The American Legion Family

who travel to Salt Lake City this summer. It's the right place to be for the 1996 National Convention of The American Legion.

*Updates on the 78th American Legion National Convention will appear in upcoming issues of The American Legion Dispatch and THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE.* □

## COMRADES IN DISTRESS

Readers who can help these veterans are urged to write a witness letter, including the CID number. Send the letters to CID, The American Legion Magazine, Box 1055, Indianapolis IN 46206.

Notices are published only at the requests of American Legion Service Officers representing claimants using Search for Witness Forms available from Legion Department Service Officers.

**169th Const. Engrs.** Larry W. Derryberry needs witnesses to verify that while stationed at Long Bien, Vietnam, during July 1966, he fell off a power pole while building a stockade. Contact CID 1325.

**493rd Bomb Grp.** Robert J. Clark needs witnesses to verify that while stationed at Debach, England, on April 6, 1945, he bailed out of a spinning B-17. Contact CID 1326.

**Co. E, 346th Engr., General Service Rgt.** Gerson J. Genn needs witnesses to verify that while stationed in Germany from May 23, 1945 to Oct. 2, 1945, he and others in his company were served poisoned alcohol drinks by a German, sending them into a coma. Contact CID 1327.

**White Sands Proving Grounds, New Mexico** James E. Rollins needs witnesses to verify that during March 1956 and October 1957, he was exposed to radiation while at the White Sands Proving Ground in New Mexico. Contact CID 1328.

**A/Trp., 37th Constabulary** Andrew B. Cisney needs witnesses to verify that while stationed at Dillenburg, Germany, he received head and shoulder injuries on May 16, 1946, when he was thrown out of a truck during an accident. Contact CID 1313.

**Army Chemical Warfare Officers Candidate School** Charles C. Ashby needs witnesses to verify that in January 1943, while stationed at Edgewood Arsenal, Md., he was hospitalized immediately after he participated in mustard-lewisite gas experiments. Contact CID 1316.

**Camp Lee, Va.** Thomas J. Stuffer needs witnesses to verify that while going through basic training in early spring 1944, he participated in mustard and phosgene gas tests with and without masks. Contact CID 1317.

**Co. A, 40th Engrs.** Ralph M. Marquez needs witnesses to verify that he suffered chest pains in 1942 while in Italy and was sent to France for further medical attention. Contact CID 1318.

**Hq. Btry., 2/17th FA** Gary Roger Beal needs witnesses to verify that he was hit by enemy fire Dec. 12, 1968, while stationed at Camp Radcliffe, An Khe, Vietnam. Contact CID 1315.

**Med. Det., 101st QM Rgt., National Guard, Ft. Dix, N.J.** James Lynch needs witnesses to verify that while on Guadalcanal during WWII, he hurt his back unloading a truck. Contact CID 1321.

**Platoon 263, MCRD Parris Island, S.C.** Robert G. Powell needs witnesses to verify that while participating in pugil stick training in the summer of 1971, he received a severe blow to the head. Contact CID 1319.

## LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded Life Memberships by their posts.

Life membership notices must be submitted on official forms which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Life Memberships, The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis IN 46206.

**James Thiele (1994), Gumeindo Cantu (1995) Post 7, Germany**

**Patrick E. Barney (1995) Post 28, Anchorage, AK**  
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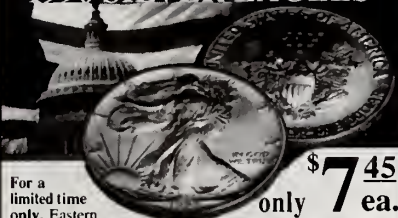
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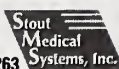
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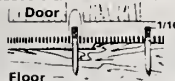
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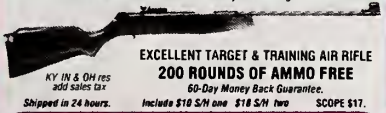
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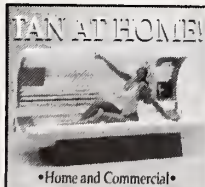
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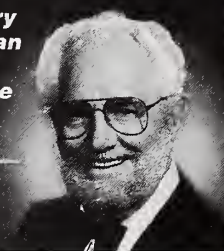


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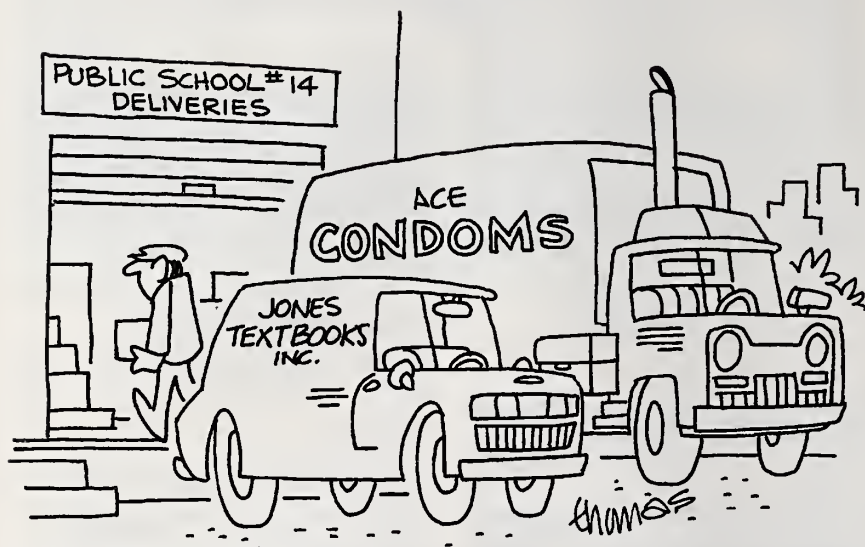
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**Patient person:** Someone who is willing to let somebody teach him something he already knows.

**Fanatic:** A man who can't change his mind and won't change the subject. —*Winston Churchill*

## Family Tree Leaf

Adam and Eve must have been the first bookkeepers. They invented the loose-leaf system.

## Good Question

I don't understand the market. How can you lose your life savings on something called "securities?"

## Historical Trivia

**Teacher:** "What did Paul Revere say at the end of his famous ride?"  
**Pupil:** "Whoa!"

## Reruns

A friend asks an absentminded professor, "Do you know that in California a man is run over every half hour?" The professor shakes his head sadly and says, "Poor fellow!"

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## SOP

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## Murder, He Said

The church was jammed and the priest was beside himself. When the young man came for confession, the priest said, "Look, you're always here. You're not a big problem unless you've committed murder since the last time. You haven't, have you?"

The young man shook his head and started out. At the door he met a friend and said, "You might as well go home. He's only hearing murder cases today!"

## No Weight At All

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## Slow Learner

A 12-year old boy returned from the synagogue and was asked by his father what lesson was taught that day. The boy said, "We learned the prayer for the dead. That's what you say when your father dies."

The father ran to the temple, accosted the rabbi, and said, "How dare you teach my son the prayer for the dead. I'm a young man in good health and I feel great!"

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## Punctual To A Fault

Two men met at a bar and had a great evening together. They promised to meet at the same bar a year from that night.

One of the men returned at the exact moment and found the other sitting, waiting for him. "When did you get here?" the man asked. The other said, "Who left?"

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